

Mr Crosland accuses BBC of bias in leadership broadcast

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sion broadcast in the "Panorama" programme on the contest. But the director-general of the BBC disagreed. As nominations closed yesterday Mr Callaghan and Mr Foot remained the most favoured candidates.

'Curran offer 'still stands'

Our Political Staff
As Labour MPs began voting last night for Mr Wilson's successor as Prime Minister and leader of the Labour Party, Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment and one of the contenders for the leadership of the Labour Party, accused the BBC last night of bias in excluding him and Mr Wedgwood Benn, another candidate, from a television broadcast in the "Panorama" programme on the contest. But the director-general of the BBC disagreed. As nominations closed yesterday Mr Callaghan and Mr Foot remained the most favoured candidates.

important programmes. As Panorama was carrying a big report on feeling in the constituencies, the time available was adequate for three interviews only, those involving Mr Foot, Mr Jenkins, and Mr Healey. Mr Crosland, Sir Charles added, had been offered an interview in the Tonight programme of the same duration as that in the same programme last week given to Mr Benn. It would also have been of the same duration as the Panorama interviews of Mr Foot, Mr Jenkins and Mr Healey. That offer still stood. He said: "We are trying to be as fair as we can in a complex situation, without putting ourselves in the position of trying to put everyone into one programme in a way which could do justice to none."

been following since the Second World War and he relied on it to stick to it, not only until the next election, but until the next election and run the Government after that. He added that he had been a "central figure" in the economic policies of the past two years that had halved the rate of inflation, halved the balance of payments deficit, and cut the number of strikes by three quarters compared with the period of Conservative power. "We are a Labour party," he said, "we represent working people, and I think our central problem is to persuade working people that work is not something you have to do to earn money, it is something you want to do because it is worth while both for you and the country."

Mr Callaghan sets time limit for majority rule in Rhodesia

By David Wood
Political Editor

For the first time yesterday the Government set a time limit of 18 months to two years for elections establishing majority rule as one of the preconditions for Britain to re-enter negotiations on "the actual terms of a constitution for independence."

"Britain would be prepared to play a constructive part in any negotiations in which these preconditions have been accepted, and would be willing to sit down with representatives of all shades of Rhodesian opinions, inside and out." The other three preconditions are: 1. Acceptance of majority rule. 2. Agreement that there will be no independence before majority rule. 3. Negotiations must not be long drawn out.

Mr Callaghan added that there would also need to be assurances that the transition to majority rule and to an independent Rhodesia would not be thwarted and would be orderly. "We should also need," he said, "to ensure that the settlement provided a back-ground in which both communities could live and work together in an independent Rhodesia."

The British Government would be willing to consider financial and other measures to assist that end. Apart from showing that the Government needs Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, to make up his mind on the inevitability of "death and destruction" if his regime continues on its present course, Mr Callaghan made clear that the British Government will not rush into a new negotiation without trying to carry both Rhodesian white opinion and African opinion inside and outside Rhodesia.

There is no doubt that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is doing all it can to ensure the widest publicity to the four preconditions and the British "safeguards" in Rhodesia in the hope that, if Mr Smith and his regime will not change their stance, public opinion in this way can ensure the country's development. British money and British help would be behind that objective. He hoped the Commonwealth, the European Communities, and others would also lend a hand. In his conclusion, Mr Callaghan overtly appealed to the European population in Rhodesia to accept that there is an alternative to the path along which Mr Smith is leading them. It was still just possible for Mr Smith to follow it. If not, "I hope other leaders will emerge who recognize the realities of the hour and that the time is here when the legitimate aspirations of the African people can be met and reconciled with the desires of the European population," he said. "Only in this way can there be hope for a peaceful future for Rhodesia."



Russian visit: Mr Andrei Gromyko (right) the Soviet Foreign Minister, said on arrival in London yesterday that relations between Britain and the Soviet Union "have palpably changed for the better."

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, who met him, replied that it was necessary for Britain and the Soviet Union to have "an open dialogue."

The main topics to be discussed during Mr Gromyko's three-day visit are detente, Southern Africa and economic relations. Mr Gromyko and his wife will visit the Constable exhibition at the Tate Gallery today.

A group representing "prisoners of conscience" wearing striped pyjamas, skull caps and chains, waited near the Soviet Embassy yesterday, to protest at the treatment of Soviet Jews. The demonstrators have announced that they intend to follow Mr Gromyko throughout his visit.

Cuba given hint that US is ready to attack

From Fred Emery
Washington, March 22
The United States is trying to warn Cuban leaders that they risk direct American military action against Cuba itself if their troops in Angola begin fighting in Rhodesia or Namibia (South-West Africa). That was the private interpretation of an official article today of a front-page article in the Washington Star which suggested that American action against Cuba might range from a blockade to all-out invasion. The article, written by the writer of the article, suggested the United States seemed prepared to gamble that the Soviet Union would react only verbally as the United States had refrained from action over Czechoslovakia in 1968. Mr Kissinger, the Secretary of State, is to make a speech in Dallas tonight. But he is not expected by his spokesman to go much beyond his earlier warnings that another Cuban adventure in Africa would not be tolerated. Those warnings are the starting point for the article in the Star. Such insistence by both Mr Kissinger and President Ford in repeated speeches has been largely dismissed as bluster by critics on the ground that it would be politically impossible for the United States to go to the aid of racist in southern Africa. But Mr Kissinger's mood is known to be one of intense frustration, and he has actively tried to convince the Soviet Union that his warnings are not to be trifled with. Mr O'Leary's article is seen by officials as part of an effort by the Ford administration to convince Moscow, Havana and any other doubters that it means business. Reaction against Cuba itself would, the article suggests, involve both the political unpopularity of intervening on Rhodesia's side and the logistic difficulties of moving troops from America to Africa. He writes: "The United States could blockade Cuba as was done during the 1962 missile crisis; it could reinforce the Guantanamo Bay naval base and launch conventional attacks to expand the perimeter into the province; it could invade Cuba... or it could launch limited air attacks, alone or in combination with any of the first three options."

Income tax concession likely to be based on 6% pay rise

David Blake
Opinion in Whitehall seems to be hardening in favour of a limit of about 6 per cent on increases in the coming year, coupled with tax concessions of about 3 per cent. The 6 per cent figure, equivalent to a flat-rate rise of about £3.50 on the annual average of £50 a week, would mean the current rate of about 15 per cent on £100 would be reduced to 11 per cent. It would be accompanied by a raising of tax thresholds which would mean that most wage earners would see an increase equivalent to 10 per cent without any tax payment. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is believed to be determined to try to introduce a Budget on the scheduled date in spite of the complications introduced by the election of a new Prime Minister. But without the leadership of the traditional Conservative, no final decision has been made. It is expected that a Budget planning more a year before. But because the Chancellor's judgment depends on the unions, he has made clear, on the one hand, that the unions are prepared to accept a 6 per cent limit, and that will not be exceeded until the summer. The

Budget will therefore probably announce that tax thresholds will be raised by a certain amount on the assumption that the limit on wages will be around 6 per cent. If the pay limit is lower, the Chancellor may well be prepared to give more in tax concessions; if the limit is higher he will certainly give less. An adjustment in the tax thresholds seems to have been chosen in preference to a reduction in the standard income-tax rate because it is felt that the two groups who have suffered most harshly from the effect of inflation on taxes are those at the bottom of the tax scale and middle managers in the range where higher rates of tax begin to bite. The exact size of the increase in tax allowances need not be decided until July, when the final form of the Finance Bill has been settled. Until then, the Government can introduce amendments to the Bill which it introduces at the time of the Budget. Another area that is still unclear would seem to be exactly how the notional 6 per cent would be shared out. There have been no negotiations with the unions on that. Talks seem to have been restricted to showing them a range of possibilities for illustrative purposes only. None the less the clear im-

pression in Whitehall is that the unions will want the new pay limit to be a mixture of flat-rate money increase and a percentage rise along the line suggested recently by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. If there is an upper limit beyond which rises are not allowed, it may be above the present level of £3,500 a year. Although the Budget is not expected to be massively regressive, there is no suggestion that the tax reductions on the personal sector will be balanced by big tax increases on the corporate sector. There is some reluctance to increase indirect taxes because of their inflationary effect. The Treasury view seems to be that there will be enough growth in the coming year to make up for the loss in revenue caused by the tax cuts. Treasury forecasts for the end of 1976 and 1977 are believed to be relatively bright in their assessment of growth of national product, as was the Bank of England in its recent forecast in the March Quarterly Bulletin. This suggested that the economy as a whole would grow at an annual rate of 3 per cent by the end of this year, and that exports would be growing at a rate of 10 per cent towards the end of 1976.

Beirut rightists retake strategic hotel

From Paul Martin
Beirut, March 22
After a day of heavy tank, artillery and infantry battles, the rightwing Phoenician forces in Beirut tonight won back control of the Holiday Inn and two other big city-centre hotels, the Phoenix and the St George's. With the military conflict worsening on all fronts, leftist forces said they feared a new Phoenician push towards the Muslim stronghold of Ain Meisil. The so-called "hotel war" in Beirut, with the 26-storey Holiday Inn being recaptured only 24 hours after its takeover by the leftists, is but a part of the renewed struggle raging in and around the Lebanese capital. Indeed, the bombardment of the Ras Beirut area, in which most of the embassies stand and the remnants of the foreign community live, tonight evoked a protest from western diplomatic missions. Initiated by the European Community countries, the protest was presented to the warring factions on an individual basis. It deplored what was described as indiscriminate shelling of Ras Beirut and other parts of the western suburbs. The French Embassy was hit during the artillery barrage today and Mr Guy Baroulet, the consul, was seriously wounded. Shells also crashed around the British and American embassies without causing injury or damage. In the hills overlooking the city, a force of Muslim Army deserters, leftists and Palestinian guerrillas reached the Christian village of Kahaleh, the last line of defence of the presidential palace. The leftists, who have declared their intention to unseat President Suleiman Franjeh by force if necessary, are now only about five miles from the palace. With the military situation worse than at any other time in the 11-month-old civil war, a resolution of the presidential crisis has become a matter of the utmost urgency. Mr

Tube bomb charges expected tomorrow

By Clive Borrell
Two men are expected to be charged tomorrow in connexion with the planting of bombs on London Underground trains last week. Other charges relating to terrorist activities may be preferred against three other men and possibly a woman later this week. Those being held by the police last night were arrested at the weekend after raids led by officers of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad. A senior member of the squad said last night: "It would be wrong to say that we have won the war against these terrorists, but we have certainly come out on top in this present skirmish. There are still other places and other people we want to see."

Commander Roy Habershon, head of the squad, was anxious yesterday to dispel any thought in the minds of Londoners that recent successes in discovering three bomb "factories" in south London and the arrests that followed meant they could relax their guard. He said: "Those travelling on public transport should continue their vigilance and report anything suspicious. I also ask landlords and landladies of flats and bed-sitting rooms to be on the alert and make sure that a new tenant is not a bomber. This is no time to relax."

Journalists' union dispute grows

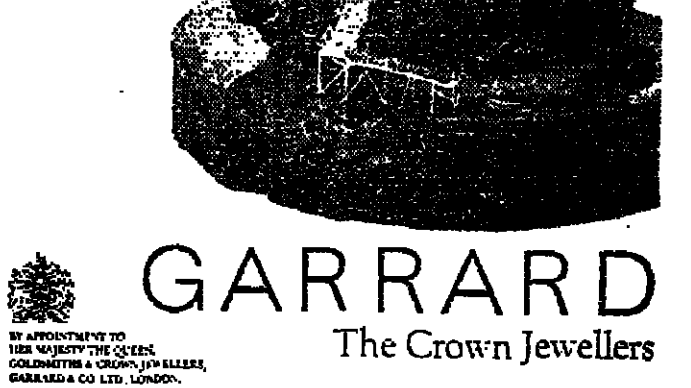
By Paul Roulledge
Labour Editor
TUC leaders will tomorrow take a further step towards isolating the Institute of Journalists, the unaffiliated union at the centre of a dispute over a free press and the closed shop. The General Council of the TUC is almost certain to endorse a minute in a report from its printing industries committee laying down that all unions in the industry shall take part in meetings involving representatives of the institute. The move is being undertaken at the request of the National Union of Journalists. Membership of the NUJ has grown recently after unfavourable publicity given to the NUJ during the parliamentary passage of Mr Foot's Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill.

The union said in a letter to the printing industries committee that the question had not arisen because of the dispute at the time, when the trade union council and members of the Labour group of the local authority were refusing to give information to institute members. It was a much wider matter, the union said, had sought to involve the institute in joint talks with the NUJ and printing unions, although the institute refused to participate in such discussions. The union asked other printing unions to follow its example and refuse to take part in joint meetings or federated chapels (office branches) where the institute was represented, and that request was granted. Printing unions will not get involved either at national or local level with the institute.

However, the printing unions pointed out that their stand did not mean that production workers would give automatic support to the institute. The unions, taken by NUJ members who were in conflict with the institute. Nor could they be expected to take action against the institute at the workplace "until the NUJ decided on a national policy and practice on this issue."

William Tolliday Sculptor and Goldsmith at Garrard

This gifted artist works only in gold, precious stones and beautiful natural minerals to create scenes of fantasy and delight. Each piece is unique: each is fashioned with rare and imaginative craftsmanship. The sculptures and collages of William Tolliday are exclusive to Garrard and some delightful examples are always to be seen in the Garrard showrooms. You are invited to view the current collection. Details and photographs are available on request and the artist will be pleased to discuss special commissions. 'Castle Malachite' On an escarpment of malachite-encrusted rock glows a Castle of gold. Delicately detailed are the tracery of the diamond-studded windows, battlements and machicolations, the turrets of coloured gold and pinnacles with flowing pendants. A path of red gold winds down to a landing stage where boats lie at rest upon a mount of translucent agate.



Libya accused of Tunis death plot

President Bourguiba, of Tunisia, told Libya of having sent "a number of agents" of its secret service to assassinate him and Mr Moura, his Prime Minister. Libya has sent its assassins in order to avenge the failure of the January 1975 attempt at a Tunisian-Libyan war.

Science students 'lacking skills'

University degree courses, particularly in science and technology, may have to be lengthened at considerable extra cost because entrants lack the basic skills and information, the University Grants Committee has reported. Its chairman said students lacked the skills in mathematics to use equations.

'Secret payments' to communists

Government officials in communist countries may have received secret payments from the American Government. Documents submitted in an American court by the Securities and Exchange Commission state that about £130,000 was possibly paid by a Philadelphia company to a "Romanian military officer."

Oporto explosion

Another bomb outrage in Oporto has added to the anxiety of the Portuguese Government that the war is an attempt to delay elections to a legislative assembly due on April 25. A solicitor said at Belfast Magistrates' Court that courts in Northern Ireland were being abused by the security forces for political purposes.

Bank chief resigns

Mr Pat Matthews officially resigned from the board of First National Finance Corporation, the secondary banking group of which he was the executive managing director. His departure was expected after a reorganization of the troubled company.

Two-year tests for rural transport

The Government hopes soon to introduce a Bill to authorize various experiments in public transport to rural areas. Mini-buses, postal vans and car lifts are among methods to be tested for a period of two years in two areas in England and Wales and one in Scotland.

Food firms' offer

Food processors are to offer the Government a plan for profit control in return for the abolition of the Price Code. It is understood the offer will be put to the Food and Drink Industries Council on Friday for confirmation.

Council home sales

A case for selling council houses to tenants in order to allow many poor people access to wealth is set out in a pamphlet by the director of the Child Poverty Action Group.

Home News	2, 4	Court	16	Obituary	16	T & Radio	28
Europe News	5, 6	Crossword	16	Pamphlets	16	TV Series, etc	28
Overseas News	6, 7	Diary	14	Parliament	16	8-25 Years Ago	16
Appointments	16	Engagements	16	Salon Room	16	15 Years Ago	12
Arts	8	Features	11, 14	Science	16	Weather	2
Bridge	16	Low Report	11	Snow Report	16	Wills	16
Business	17-22	Letters	15	Sport	10, 11		

Leader page, 15
Letters: On initiatives in southern Africa, from Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP and others; on cycling and transport policy, from Dr Ronald Williams.
Leading articles: Rhodesia; Libya and Tunisia; Council housing; battlements and machicolations.
Features, pages 11 and 14
Bernard Levin takes a gloomy view of the Labour leadership stakes; Professor Ivor Gowan on why devolution is finding a cool reception in Wales.
Arts, page 9
Paul Overy on Marriage at the National Museum of Wales; Sheridan Morley talks to Bill Gile; Mario Amaya on Koloschka at the Marlborough Fine Arts Gallery.
Diary, page 14
First of a series on what it is like to be a squatter in London.
Sport, pages 10-11
Rugby Union: Peter West calls for some new England selections; Racing: Prospects for French and Irish flat seasons.
Business News, pages 17-22
Stock markets: In a quiet opening to the account the FT Index lost 3.6 to 2513.
Financial Editor: Slower tempo at Rolls-Royce Motors; BP relative to Shell; Low & Bonar.
Business feature: Roger Vervore on the progress of Britain's power power station using the SGHWR system.

HOME NEWS

Left-wing case for selling council houses to tenants

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Encouragement for the sale of council houses to their tenants, usually the prerogative of Conservative politicians, gained left-wing support yesterday by the publication of a pamphlet by Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group and of the Low Pay Unit.

In it he recalled that Mr Peter Walker, former Secretary of State for the Environment, had put forward the suggestion from the right of British politics. Mr Field argues from a left-wing standpoint and concludes: "There seem to be three immensely important advantages."

"In the first place, it would be a massive redistribution of wealth in our community. Secondly, it would extend the new dimensions of individual freedom to a large number of people: freedom from the petty rules and restrictions imposed by bureaucracy, and also freedom in the ability to move around the country."

"Thirdly, this approach would be a direct attack on the cycle of poverty in that it would for the first time be giving many poor people the crucial thing they lack—and that is access to wealth."

Mr Field said he believed there was a certain sourness and bitterness about the state of housing in this country, and in the housing movement as we become more and more aware of the obstacles mounting in our way to providing everyone with a decent home.

And think also there is a growing sourness on the housing estates themselves as tenants become more and more aware of the extent of the serfdom imposed upon them by their council tenancies.

Arguing that selling council houses en bloc to tenants might be the only successful way of persuading council

tenants to pay a larger proportion of their income to cover their housing costs, Mr Field detailed the financial crisis in council housing.

A decreasing part of the costs was covered by rents, 45 per cent now, compared with 73 per cent in 1965. There was a "bookkeeping" crisis whereby housing was automatically more expensive in the public sector, and it made the biggest institutional demand for capital.

Discussing the objection to the scheme that municipal housing was in itself a very good thing, he stated: "That certainly does not tally with my experience of being on a council for four years where we were not receptive to the needs of many ordinary families. Furthermore, it does not belong to that school of socialist thought that believes that all wealth should be held communally."

He rejected the criticism that tenants did not want to be bothered with ownership, and that the change would dry up a very important supply of housing for those on the waiting list. The latest figures (for 1973) showed that 150,000 houses came back to the pool for reallocation from tenants who moved on.

Figures showed that in 1973 some 21 per cent of council tenants had a household income in excess of £60 a week, and yet the average rent of that group was less than £5 a week.

One way of helping people to buy their home would be to use money gathered from the gift tax and proposed wealth tax.

Mr Field did not go into the details of the feasibility of the scheme, but asked for further discussion on his approach. The Catholic Housing Aid Society, which published the pamphlet, has set up a working party to do just that.

Do we need council houses? (Catholic Housing Aid Society, 189a Old Brompton Road, London SW5 0AR, 25p).

Leading article, page 15

Campaign to encourage renovation of property

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government yesterday launched a campaign to encourage the renovation and modernization of older houses in private ownership.

The latest figures show a sharp drop in the number of general improvement areas declared by local authorities. Such areas were first defined by the Housing Act, 1969, and qualify for extensive grants, backed by Exchequer subsidies, the purpose being to give a "facelift" to whole districts and not just individual houses.

Between 1969 and December, 1974 when the latest Housing Act came into force, 909 areas containing 276,069 dwellings were declared in England and Wales; that is an average of more than 50,000 dwellings a year. Since then only 119 areas containing 31,101 dwellings have been notified to the Department of the Environment, and fewer than half of those have been declared.

Part of the explanation may be the emphasis given in the 1974 Act to a new category of housing action areas, with the intention of concentrating resources on the most deprived and run-down districts.

Other possible factors are the ending of the 75 per cent grants formerly payable in assisted regions, and reluctance by some councils to assist owner-occupiers and private landlords when their own municipalization and improvement programmes have been drastically cut.

A film, *Not So Much a Facelift*, is obtainable on tree loan from the Department of the Environment, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QH.

Thalidomide handed in

Thirty thalidomide tablets have been taken to a West Sussex chemist on the first day of a county campaign for handing in old medicines. The drug, which can cause a baby to be born deformed, was 15 years old.

Bill to legalize experiments in rural transport

The Government hopes to introduce soon a short Bill to enable experiments to be made in providing public transport in thinly-populated rural areas. Although many tests can be carried out under existing legislation, some parts of the studies, especially those which involve a relaxation of licensing laws, will require new legislation. Some experiments may start before the law has been modified.

The Department of the Environment is in charge of the experiments, which will involve two areas in England, one in Wales and one in Scotland. The aim is to take an area roughly the size of a district council and examine

different facets of the same general problem. A steering committee, probably under a minister, will oversee the four experiments. Each area will have a working group. The groups, like the steering committee, will be made up of widely representative interests.

County councils which face the task of providing public transport in rural areas are not to be selected until the meeting of the steering committee, which is due soon.

Each experiment is expected to run for at least two years and will explore the various uses of mini-buses, the greater

use of the private car in giving regular lifts to passengers who contribute to costs, the use of school buses for face-paying adults, "the postal bus" and other possibilities.

Many isolated experiments are taking place on those lines. In Norfolk, for example, housewives are running and driving a mini-bus provided and serviced by Eastern Counties Buses, part of the National Bus Company. The DOE experiments, it is hoped, will look at the suitability of all those isolated innovations and others, and suggest those most suitable for particular conditions.

The proposed Bill and the experiments reflect wide concern about the provision of public transport for relatively few people without cars living and working in rural areas.

As car ownership rises, the number of bus passengers on the main roads supported by fares falls still further. That increases the subsidy needed to keep services running.

Those often affected are older people, schoolchildren and housewives. In the last case a household may have a car, but the husband needs it for his journey to work. That leaves the wife with a difficulty in getting to shops, clinics, etc.

The short Bill proposals come at a time when a comprehensive government review of transport policy is in, and when county

approaches to meeting the needs of rural areas are being reviewed. The transport review thought to lay great emphasis on the wider use of both in the country and in the cities.

Any permanent changes are felt to be after the four experiments have been covered by legislation. The review will be introduced after the next review.

The initial consultation of that review is any time after Budget April 6. It is described as the most comprehensive transport policy ever in

Union leaders' farewell tribute to Mr Wilson

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders yesterday bade Mr Wilson a fulsome farewell at the last meeting of the Labour Party-TUC Liaison Committee he will attend as Prime Minister.

Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and architect of the £6 incomes policy, was at the forefront in paying tribute to the party leader's political skills and long service. Mr Wilson said the Government's success had been founded on partnership with the unions, and he hoped that would continue.

The tributes were heard by three contenders in the race to No 10, Mr Healey, Mr Foot and Mr Benn. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to have spoken last, according to his view that the Government can pursue its economic strategy only with the trade unions' agreement.

Other senior politicians present were Mrs Williams, Mr Short, and from Labour's national executive Mrs Castle, Mr Mikardo, Mr Tom Bradley and the party's general secretary, Mr Ronald Hayward.

Unions were represented by Mr David Benger, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, Lord Allen of Fallowfield, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, Mr Jones, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC,

and his deputy, Mr Willis, and Mr Davies, economic secretary to the Civil servants' union, who felt themselves to be cornered by the tributes and the innumerable responded with glee when Mr Foot, Secretary for Employment to their defence (on Staff writes).

A message to his wife, Mrs Wilson, was also sent. You will all have seen press attacks on the Civil Service, Mr Foot said, and I would like you to know that the Civil Service is a noble and worthy institution and that it is a commitment and sense of duty that you show without all these attacks could not have the challenges of the years.

He hoped recent at the Civil Service and elsewhere everywhere "proper contempt" for the Civil Service.

Mr Leslie Moody, general secretary of the Service Union, said: "The record as fairly as I can have heard it. The only one of cuts could be so in service."

Mr William Kendall, secretary of the C. Public Services As said: "I welcome a belated expression of for the Civil Service government minister."

Rector to fight for his parish

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Rector of Redmarley, near Gloucester, the Rev John Burley, said yesterday that he wants to fight for reinstatement in his parish, although he has rendered his resignation to his bishop.

Mr Burley was married on Saturday to his former housekeeper, whose previous marriage was dissolved, and the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Robert Woods, invited him to resign.

The rector said yesterday that he would consult his solicitor today to see whether a way could be found for him to get back his living. He has said that when he signed his resignation he had been told by the bishop that action would be taken against him if he did not.

The bishop said yesterday: "Mr Burley came to consult me at my request on Friday, March 19, about his proposed marriage due to take place on Saturday, March 20. In one way, he was divorced from his husband and whose husband was still living."

"After mutual consideration Mr Burley agreed that he should resign the parish of Redmarley. We mutually concluded that his new marriage was contrary to the regulations of the Church of England and that furthermore it was damaging to the life of the church in Redmarley."

Mr Burley, a widower, said he resigned expecting to be allowed to continue as a clergyman elsewhere. He had been told afterwards by the bishop that his resignation was the end of his career in the church.

An authority on church law said yesterday that there was no automatic penalty for a clergyman marrying a divorcee, and there were no express regulations of the church against it. But an Act of Convocation laid it down as contrary to church policy.

If a bishop wished to remove a parson from his living, he had to submit a complaint to the consistory court alleging that the parson had, through his conduct, lost the good will of his parish. It would be up to the judge of the consistory court to decide whether the complaint was upheld.

Mr Burley has said that he has much support in his parish, including that of the church wardens and the organist.

Ulster courts 'abused by the security forces'

Mr Jonathan Taylor, a solicitor, alleged at Belfast Magistrates' Court yesterday that courts in Northern Ireland were being abused by the security forces for political purposes. He said the public were being duped into believing that the security forces were solving more murders than they were.

Appearing for the defence of two men on a murder charge, Mr Taylor said: "I am satisfied that evidence available to the police does not justify that charge."

It was so, it would appear to be yet another of the regrettably large number of cases in which the police initially charged an accused with murder, but eventually withdrew the charge or reduced it to a lesser one.

He went on to make the strongest possible protest about the practice. He condemned what he said was the complicity of the Director of Public Prosecutions, who made it impossible for those accused to obtain bail and deprived them of their liberty.

A solicitor for the Director of Public Prosecutions said he could not comment on the allegations.

The police said: "We do not just charge people with murder."

Office staff tied up as IRA plants bombs in Belfast

Firemen fought a fierce blaze yesterday after a bomb explosion at a disused ballroom in the centre of Belfast. The room was cleared after a telephone warning that four bombs had been planted in the Chichester Street Plaza.

Two armed men planted the bombs after entering the ballroom through offices at the rear. Staff in the offices were tied up and locked in a lavatory.

The Belfast Brigade of the Provisional IRA later admitted responsibility for the attack, saying that the premises had been bought by the Ministry of Defence for use as a headquarters. The Army described that assertion as "utter nonsense."

Shoppers fled when a bomb was thrown into a shopping centre in Andersonstown, west

der for the sake of it. If we believe we have a prima facie case for murder then we charge the person or persons who we believe murdered. It is not the police who decide the charge but the Director of Public Prosecutions."

Murder charge dropped: Francis Bogle, aged 18, accused of murdering a policeman, had the charge withdrawn at Belfast City Magistrates' Court yesterday when he admitted possessing arms and ammunition with intent. Mr Bogle, of Rathmore, Craigavon, was jailed for five years for possessing the gun.

He denied communicating information likely to be useful to terrorists, and the Crown decided not to continue on that count either after Bogle had admitted the guns and ammunition charge.

Twenty-nine accused: Six people were charged with murder and one with attempted murder in Ulster last week, the Northern Ireland Office announced yesterday. Twenty-nine people in all were charged with serious offences, including six with firearms offences.

There are now 872 people before the courts on serious charges. The security forces seized 12 weapons and found or dealt with 483lb of explosives.

Woman loses £7,500 she lent to fiancé's firm

Mrs Roisin Glyn Jones, who parted with a £7,500 nest-egg to a man she met through a marriage bureau, was told by Judge Richards in the High Court yesterday: "You did a crazy thing and you must suffer the consequences."

Mrs Glyn Jones, aged 42, sued her former fiancé, Mr Joseph, aged 35, for the return of her money, but the judge held that the loan was to his company and not to him personally. The company, Atlas Expeditions Ltd, went into liquidation in October, 1974, and Mrs Glyn Jones, the main creditor, was unlikely to get "a penny piece", the judge said.

Mrs Glyn Jones, of Kelsey Grove, Vauxley, near Cambridge, Surrey, claimed £7,500 plus interest from Mr Joseph, of Lyndon Close, Thames Ditton, Surrey.

which was later paid to the other partners of Weller Eggar, was handed by Weller Eggar last month to Mr Lionel Brooks, the original owner of the Bewbush estate.

The commercial branch of Sussex police has been investigating land deals in the Crawley area in 1972 and 1973 involving the Horsham branch of Weller Eggar. A report has been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The investigations included one of the Tedfold stud farm deal.

Mr Smith and Mr Ritchie were arrested and questioned by Sussex police last month, but were released on police bail without being charged, on condition that they return to Horsham police station on specified dates this month. That condition was lifted 12 days ago, pending a decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mecca man in bid to save trust

By a Staff Reporter

Outward Bound, the adventure training organization, has appointed Mr Eric Morley, the impresario, as managing director in an attempt to ease its financial difficulties. Mr Morley, chairman and chief executive of Mecca Ltd, has been given wide powers to reorganize Outward Bound within the terms of its educational trust deeds.

The appointment comes after the disclosure that if present trends continued the Outward Bound Trust would have a deficit of £40,000 this year.

Bookings for the main course are expected to drop from last year's figure of 3,000 to 2,000 by the end of this year.

The trust said yesterday that increasing costs and the squeeze on industry's cash flow had caused a big drop in the number of trainees for industry for its courses, which are designed to achieve self-discovery through challenging activities on the sea, the mountains and rivers.

Mr Morley, who has raised about £250,000 for the organization in the past four years, said that his first task would be to save its Moray establishment, near Elgin. He is putting in £12,500 of his own money towards the £50,000 needed, and is looking for a Scottish businessman to lend similar support.

Opponents rally over dock-work measure

By Tim Jones
Labour Staff

Labour members of the Commons committee considering the Dock Work Regulation Bill can expect further strong opposition today when they discuss amendments to the controversial extension of the dock labour scheme.

Opponents of the scheme say that it guarantees dockers a job for life with pay, irrespective of whether there is work for them. Employers maintain that there are too many dockers for the work available.

The temperature in the committee has been raised by the release of a map showing the extent of the corridor, in which all work involving imports and exports may be classified as dock work.

In broad terms, the Bill would mean the classification

of all cargo handling within five miles of a waterfront as dock work. That development has sent a ripple of apprehension through the Confederation of British Industry and caused a wave of protectionism among trade unions.

Much of the corridor shown in the map is clearly impractical even to the most militant dockers. For example, it extends beyond Blaenau Ffestiniog, in North Wales, which is some 800ft above sea level and never likely to accommodate a barge, much less a container ship.

It does, however, show areas that could be open to dispute. Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative MP for City of Westminster, St Marylebone, said: "The scope for inter-union rivalry will be enormous. This is a lunatic way of dealing with industrial change."

Wedding eve dismissal claim

A woman who was dismissed on the eve of her wedding because she was marrying a colleague claimed yesterday that the action was unfair under the Sex Discrimination Act.

A case brought by Mrs Jeannette McLean against the Paris Travel Service Ltd, of Bridge House, Ware, Hertfordshire, is thought to be the first of its kind under the new Act.

Mrs McLean, of Holfield Green, Hoddeston, Hertfordshire, said she was dismissed from her job as a reservations clerk.

Mr John McLean, her husband, former assistant manager of Paris Travel, told the Industrial Tribunal in London that when they told Mrs Hazel Hoffman, the manager, a week before the ceremony that they were going to marry, she said his wife would be required to leave.

Labour MPs open fund for Clay Cross 10

By Our Political Staff

The Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs started a fund yesterday to collect £2,229 to meet the surcharge levied on 10 councillors for Clay Cross, Derbyshire, by the district authority.

The Court ruled on February 24 that the councillors, the second group to run into trouble with the law over council spending and charges, must pay the surcharge.

Mr Arthur Latham, chairman of the group, said the money had to be paid in two weeks. At the Tribune group meeting in the Commons the 20 or so MPs present started off the fund with contributions totalling £125.

Mrs Maureen Colquhoun, the group's treasurer, will be seeking money from other Labour MPs, including those outside the group. The matter has also been raised with Mr Ronald Hayward, the Labour Party's general secretary.

The councillors served for only 29 days, but they refused to discontinue the policy of their predecessors in making standby payments to council workers and in paying the wages to the wardens of group homes for old people.

Army 'sought reimbursement from families'

Funeral costs for 10 soldiers and travelling for their relatives who the inquest were paid Army and no reimbursement was sought from the Ministry of Defence yesterday.

It was replying to a Sunday by two MP. Army wanted £2,701 £17,000 public appeal relatives of the Scottish and Army Reserve men who died in the accident in Northern Ireland last week.

The money was to pay the Army's expenses. In a statement, he said it had met the funeral and reburial representative of £4 with the cost of fares the request.

"There has been whatever of any demand payment of those cost. In addition, the unit assisted families various other expenses temporary grants for those from money specifically for widows' fathers died, being destined for a trust."

More accidents to cyclists

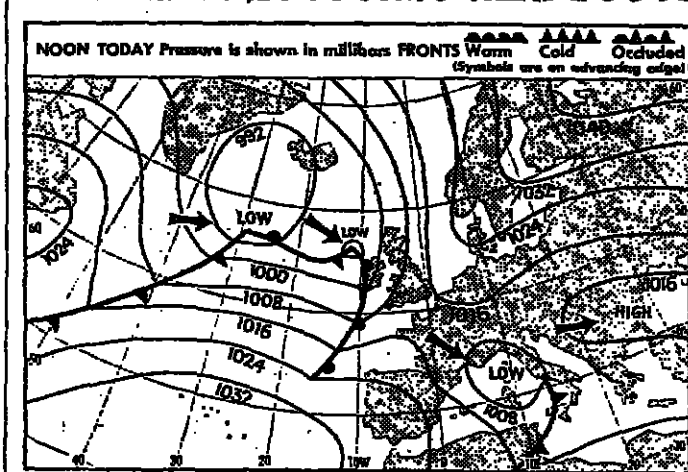
Casualties to motor and pedal cyclists rose sharply last summer, figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment show. But total casualties in road accidents fell by 3 per cent.

During the July-September quarter the number of motor cyclists, scooter and moped riders killed and injured rose by 25 per cent compared with that period in 1974, and the mileage they travelled rose by 28 per cent. The number of pedal cyclists killed and injured rose by 23 per cent and their mileage rose by 13 per cent.

Easter rail closures

Charing Cross and Cannon Street British Rail stations, in London, will be closed during Easter for work on new track and signalling.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols: Sun, Cloud, Rain, Snow, Wind, etc. SE, general and SW England: Rather cloudy at first, probably dry, brighter later; frost early and late; wind NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

New Moon: March 30. High water: London Bridge, 8.0 am, 6.4m (20.9ft); 8.24 pm, 6.0m (19.8ft). Avonmouth, 12.54 am, 10.7m (35.2ft); 1.25 pm, 10.2m (33.4ft). Dover, 5.15 am, 5.6m (18.5ft); 5.56 pm, 5.4m (17.8ft). Hull, 12.4 am, 6.3m (20.8ft); 12.25 pm, 6.0m (19.6ft). Liver, 5.22 am, 5.3m (25.9ft); 6.4 pm, 7.5m (24.5ft).

A depression over France will move slowly E and a ridge of high pressure will persist from Scandinavia to N England. Area forecasts: London, East Angles, E England: Mainly dry and bright; a few showers, chiefly near coasts; frost early and late; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

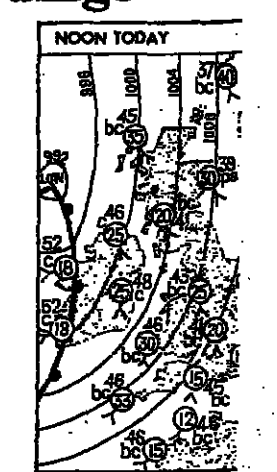
Channel Islands: Cloudy, some rain or sleet at first, brighter later; wind NE, fresh; max temp 5°C (41°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen: Mainly dry and bright; a few showers, chiefly near coasts; frost early and late; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney and Shetland: Rather cloudy at first but mainly dry, brighter later; frost early and late; wind E, moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F).

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

Accidents: A, 10; B, 10; C, 10; D, 10; E, 10; F, 10; G, 10; H, 10; I, 10; J, 10; K, 10; L, 10; M, 10; N, 10; O, 10; P, 10; Q, 10; R, 10; S, 10; T, 10; U, 10; V, 10; W, 10; X, 10; Y, 10; Z, 10.



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ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

We'll take more care of you

No. 9

British airways ANNOUNCE

Tuesday, March 23, 1976



The airline's latest wide-bodied jet will fly to the Gulf and India

TRISTAR SPREADS ITS WINGS WIDE

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to introduce its latest wide-bodied airliner, the TriStar, on to the routes from London to the Gulf from early April and to India from June. It will be the first time this popular new aircraft has been operated by the airline outside Europe.

The British Airways TriStars, with 38 first class and 204 economy class seats, will introduce a very high standard of comfort.

March route report

GERMANY



Opportunities galore!

WITH a population of 62 million and the third highest per capita income in the world, the Federal Republic of Germany offers a prime market for British businessmen.

And British Airways services are designed to get executives direct to the nine key German business centres.

A spokesman for British Airways said: "Germany offers exciting opportunities for British exporters. The German economy is expected to show a five per cent growth in gross domestic product in 1976 and the Bundesbank predicts a 10 per cent increase in money supply."

"The very high savings ratio of the German people—fifteen per cent of disposable income—suggests a pent-up consumer demand."

Services

British Airways scheduled services from London are all at least daily. Many have full first-class facilities on board.

From April 1, British Airways flights to Germany will be:

FRANKFURT: Three services daily from London at 0935, 1235, 1635.

HAMBURG: Two services daily from London at 0900 and 1645. (One on Sunday at 1645).

BERLIN: Three services daily from London at 0845, 1345 and 1825. One daily from Manchester five a week from Glasgow.

DUSSELDORF: Three services daily from London at 1350, 1725 and 1825. One daily from Manchester. Five a week from both Glasgow and Birmingham.

COLOGNE: Daily from London at 1545.

STUTTGART: Daily from London at 1530.

MUNICH: Daily from London at 1030.

KREMEN: Daily from London at 1550.

HANNOVER: Daily from London at 1550.

Special inclusive packages have been arranged for all the major trade fairs and exhibitions in Germany.

And in addition, spouse fares, for the businessman who wants to take his wife with him, can be combined with reduced-price accommodation at British Airways Associate Hotels: the Munich Plaza and the Rheinstein Pella in Düsseldorf.

The easy way to Ireland

THE GOING is now easier to the Republic of Ireland. British Airways offers the first flight of the day to Dublin, Shannon and Cork.

From April 1, British Airways will move the departure time of its flight to Shannon to 0710, and this will give holidaymakers and other travellers more time to reach their destination.

The airline is offering five flights each day to Dublin from London, up to ten flights weekly to Cork and a daily frequency to Shannon.

British Airways, in fact, serves Dublin from eight different points in England and Wales.

To match this range of services, a wide range of fares are being offered to the Republic this year.

"Family Fares" and "All from businessmen to those visiting their friends and relatives."

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The interiors of the TriStars being used on these routes are being completely refurbished. The number of seats in the economy section is being reduced by almost a third and they will be arranged only eight abreast, which means no passenger will ever be more than one seat away from an aisle.

The number of first-class seats has been almost doubled, but naturally the cabin is being increased in size to accommodate these comfortably.

To cater for the needs of the long-haul passenger, other modifications are being made to the aircraft. Seats in both sections will be the same as those on the British Airways fleet of 747s. Additional wardrobes have been added, while the galley units have been designed to maintain a high standard of bar service and catering.

Research

TriStars will be introduced progressively, taking over from VC10s, throughout April, May and June. From June 7 there will be a TriStar departure from London's Heathrow Airport to points in the Gulf each morning of the week at the convenient time of 0950.

The new aircraft will operate from April 2, initially, to Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Dhahran will be served from May 12, and from June 1 the service will go on to Bombay four times a week. Dubai will be served on a daily basis. Dhahran will have four non-stop services and Kuwait three.

Research shows that businessmen go to the Gulf for three main reasons:

- To search for new business — often involving visits to a number of states.
- To service existing contracts — with repeat travel often being necessary.
- To take up appointments, later involving travel home on leave, and visits from family and friends.

The introduction of the 242-seat British Airways TriStar will provide much needed extra capacity and make it much easier for businessmen to obtain reservations.

The Cairo express

IMPROVED schedules between London and Cairo are announced by British Airways for this summer.

Services will leave Heathrow non-stop for Cairo at 0950, arriving at 1610 local time — three days each week, rising to four in July, August and September.

One other service will leave London on Tuesdays at 2230, for an over-night flight to Cairo then going on to Ethiopia. The flights will be operated by the rear-engine VC-10 and will have first-class facilities.

A grand Grand Duchy

INCLUSIVE holidays to Luxembourg — one of the few remaining "undiscovered" countries of Europe — are being offered this year by British Airways, in association with Luxair.

Holidays of various lengths can be arranged, either in the capital or in the smaller towns and villages in magnificent countryside. Brochures are available at travel agents or British Airways shops, and prices range from £59 for two nights, to £171 for 14 nights — including air travel from Heathrow by scheduled service, hotel accommodation and, in some cases, a hire car.



Moving passenger walkways at Charles de Gaulle airport

Air Bridge to Paris

A MAJOR breakthrough in speeding up travel between London and Paris will be made when the Paris Air Bridge opens next month.

From April 1, all British Airways and Air France flights between the United Kingdom and the French capital will go to the new Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Coupled with a 30-minute Metro link to the Gare du Nord which opens on May 31, this will reduce total city centre to city centre time.

Trains will depart every 15 minutes and the journey time will be half-an-hour. Passengers will enjoy a free bus service from the airport terminal to the Metro station.

Frequency

The concentration on one airport allows the two airlines to offer up to 15 return flights from London. That means a flight virtually every half-hour at peak times.

British Airways will operate six of these flights from Heathrow, four with TriStar. The TriStar flights depart at 0900, 1000, 1500 and 1700. There will also be regular services from provincial airports.

The Paris Air Bridge will also include flights operated by Air France's A300B Airbus.

"This move represents the best thing to happen to Paris services for many years," said a British Airways spokesman.

"The high frequency service with wide-bodied aircraft, rapid ground transportation and the superior facilities at Charles de Gaulle will all contribute to improve what is one of the busiest air routes in the world."

Summer

British Airways is increasing their flights from Heathrow to Marseille this summer from three to four each week. The new flight will leave London on Mondays at 1430, arriving at Marseille at 1715. It will be operated by Trident aircraft.

British Airways will also improve its service between Brussels and London this year by reintroducing the popular return flight late in the afternoon on three days a week. The new service should prove popular with returning businessmen as it is timed to leave at 1720.

Export awards for five small firms

MORE than 150 companies — more than twice last year's total — competed for this year's export awards for small manufacturers.

To qualify for one of the five awards, companies had to have a staff of under 200. Their exports during 1974 had to exceed £50,000 and in 1975 £100,000.

The winners were chosen by a panel of representatives from the three sponsoring organisations — British Airways, the British Overseas Trade Board, and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

For them there are trophies and luxury holidays in Kenya and the Seychelles for a nominated employee and wife or husband.

The winners are: Arthur F. Organ Packaging Machine Co. Ltd., Redditch, Worcs; Concargo Ltd., Weston-super-Mare; Mechema Ltd., London, W1; Jet-Lube Lubricants Ltd., Maidenhead; and Crewe Chemicals Ltd., Sandbach, Cheshire.

Tony Newsome, director general of the ABCC, said: "It is clear that a large number of our small companies have notched up world-beating performances in the past year."

Victory on U.S. routes

Announce Reporter

BRITISH AIRWAYS flew more passengers from Britain to the USA than any other airline last summer. And indeed on scheduled services from the United Kingdom to the United States British Airways carried a third more passengers than any competitor.

The airline is so successful on the North Atlantic because it has more services out of the UK than any other airline and serves ten key cities — Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Montreal, and Toronto.

These cities can be reached by direct flights from London's Heathrow Airport and, in addition, there are direct services to New York, Montreal and Toronto from Glasgow and Manchester.

Suit

There are fares to suit every traveller to North America.

• First-class and economy fares are primarily for those who fly on business.

• Poundstretcher low fares for the leisure market. Shown below are return fares from London to New York for May to June but there are similar

fare categories on all scheduled flights: 22 to 45 day advance purchase excursion (APEX) from £189, 22 to 45 day excursion from £189, 14 to 21 day excursion from £237.

These fares are at present subject to Government approval.

There are also Advance Booking Charter flights on British Airways by O.A.T. available to New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Toronto. Prices this summer start at £116

Start

For quality inclusive holidays, British Airways Sovereign and Speedbird holidays start at £180 for two weeks.

There are three tremendous attractions this year in North America. They are:

- The Bicentennial. The United States will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of its independence, from coast to coast. And there will be a great welcome for the British.
- The Olympic Games in Montreal. It is likely, once again, to be one of the greatest shows on earth.
- The expected upswing in the North American economy. This must bring big opportunities to British exporters.

For reservations and further details, see your local travel agent or British Airways shop

WEST EUROPE

Lisbon upset by wave of explosions as elections approach

From Our Correspondent
Lisbon, March 22

An explosion wrecked the facade of the Oporto university faculty of economics in northern Portugal early today. It was the latest in a series of explosions in the second city, where in recent weeks a series of explosions has destroyed cars belonging to left-wing party members and damaged official buildings.

More than 110 bombs have exploded in Portugal in the last five months. Responsibility for some has been claimed by left-wing organizations while others are claimed by right-wing groups based outside the country.

These terrorist acts, together with the recent strikes, are causing serious anxiety to the Government so close to the elections for a legislative assembly on April 25.

In many quarters the anti-social activities are regarded as delaying tactics by political groups in disagreement with Government policies. "Who wants to delay the elections?" is a familiar question in the Portuguese press.

A partial strike of nurses still continues in the Lisbon area, although stoppages in the north and south have ended. Chemists and two-day strikes in the south but 28 chemists in Lisbon will remain open for emergency service. The strike is for higher pay.

A building strike due today was called off at the last minute when the Government yielded to wage claims. Heavy engineering and shipyard workers have threatened to strike from March 29 if demands for workers' control are not granted. Dr. Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist party leader, has stated publicly: "We are not the ones who are

starting off the strike wave". He added that it created an element of instability "which does not help democracy". Lisbon: One of Portugal's principal left-wing commanders today disclosed plans for large-scale army manoeuvres this week in what seems to be a show of military strength before the elections.

A regiment each of infantry, tanks and artillery are to join in a combined exercise on Wednesday and Thursday in the central military region of Lisbon, which is under the command of Brigadier Franco Chaves.

A regional command statement said the manoeuvres were to improve the discipline and operational efficiency needed to preserve Portugal's national independence and the establishment of democratic order in the country. This was taken to mean that the left-wing brigades were bent on ensuring that the Communists would be able to campaign in the region under his command.

Paris: Admiral Jose Pinheiro de Azevedo, the Portuguese Prime Minister, said in a statement published here today that the main lesson of recent events in Portugal was that "it is indeed possible to fight totalitarian political forces and win". He said he believed he was referring to the Portuguese Communist Party.

The statement, in English, was the main item in a special edition of the *International Herald Tribune* devoted to Portugal. The newspaper is published in Paris.

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Italy's rulers resist move to left

Christian Democrats have two heads and two minds

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 22

Delegates to the national congress of the governing Christian Democratic Party today responded with emotional gratitude to the heady assertions that they could still be strong, had always been honestly led, were responsible for three decades of progress, should go back to disorganising Communists, abide by the Christian values natural to them, and remain united.

The principal speaker of the day, Signor Arnaldo Forlani, was taken, reasonably enough, to be making his bid for leadership on the party. He ceased, with an unexpectedly strong political instinct, that the rank and file was disturbed in two ways.

First, by the constant accusations of corruption, by allegations of ineffectual government and moral bankruptcy and of an inevitable dependence, formal or otherwise, on the Communists.

Secondly, by the uncertain path sketched for them by the present leadership under Signor Benigno Zaccagnini who, as secretary, has proposed a better moral climate, combined with a broadening of the concept of democracy in order to provide the chance for a more effective contribution from the powerful Communist Party to the process of bringing the country out of its crisis.

Signor Forlani, who is Minister of Defence and a former party secretary, was as careful as he could be this morning to appear to be speaking for the party as a whole. Indeed, at times his apologetic of the party's virtues and its continuing need for vitality were stirring to any kind of Christian Democrat too long subjected to disdain and reproach.

But there could be no doubt that the congress now has two heads and two minds. When he had finished, about half of the delegates stayed to cheer him.

Comments were varied about Signor Forlani's speech. Most were favourable in the sense that it was a very effective performance but no one would doubt that his approach was conservative and traditionalist by comparison with the party secretary's views.

He set straight off with the argument that no apologies were necessary: "My hands", he said, raising his palms to the huge audience, "are clean like those of all Christian Democratic secretaries."

He then went on to question the idea that democracy implied a succession of different arrangements leading in a generally leftward direction.

Many delegates rose and cheered when he said: "Certainly we must be ready to go even into opposition. But first, and much more important, is that we have the courage to fight, with heads high and banners unfurled, to give Christian Democracy back its decisive role."

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Brussels fears direct elections delay

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 22

There is growing concern in Brussels that heads of government attending the EEC summit in Luxembourg next week will renege on their promise to approve direct elections to the European Parliament by 1978.

Similar fears were expressed earlier this month by European MPs in Strasbourg, who passed a resolution urging that there should be no delay in approving such elections.

The main cause of anxiety here is the attitude of President Giscard d'Estaing of France, who is under strong pressure from the Gaullists to oppose the present proposals for direct elections.

The Gaullists demand that the distribution of seats in a directly-elected assembly must be strictly proportional to national population and that the system of voting must be identical throughout the Community.

Those demands would effectively delay direct elections virtually indefinitely, since neither would be acceptable to all of the Nine.

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Danes ending strike over jobs given to British

Copenhagen, March 22.—A total of 450 Danish building workers, who had been on strike here for more than two weeks in protest against the employment of eight British fitters, today decided to return to work and let the Britons stay on the site.

A spokesman for the strikers said one of the conditions for the return would be that no further British workers were used on the big hospital project at Herlev, a Copenhagen suburb.

The British workers' wages will also be subjected to negotiation with respective unions to bring them into line with Danish wage levels, the spokesman said.

The strikers protested originally against the low wages paid to the British fitters, but last week it emerged that the Britons were paid marginally better than local staff.

The British fitters were brought here last month after earlier labour troubles, involving Danes only, seriously delayed the installation of a £500,000 British-made internal transport system.

The Danish workers then went on strike in protest against the employment of foreign labour at a time of high unemployment in Denmark. They also demanded the reinstatement of recently dismissed Danes.—Reuter.

High seas foil efforts to stop oil leak from wreck

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 22

Bad weather today again prevented Dutch frogmen from stopping oil leaking from the side of the Olympic Bravery, the supertanker wrecked off the island of Ushant.

It was the second consecutive day of high seas with 15ft waves, and high winds, which have foiled the attempts by specialists from an Amsterdam salvage firm. An estimated five tonnes a day of light fuel oil is reaching the island.

The Dutch firm has also been engaged in salvaging some 1,200 tonnes of oil which is jellified and which must first be heated and then pumped out by the "hot tap" technique. There is a risk that gas collected in the ship may cause an explosion and increase pollution.

As the Libian-registered 75,000-ton supertanker, which is owned by the Onassis Shipping Company, went aground off Ushant nearly two months ago the French press is asking why no one ordered emergency action before the bad spring weather.

Le Monde has summed up the dissatisfaction with a cartoon showing a man from the Ministry of the Quality of Life sitting in with two pails as oil leaks from the wrecked tanker.

M. Jean Chapon, the Secretary-General of the French Merchant Marine, which comes under the Ministry of Transport, said today that an official inquiry had been opened by the French merchant marine authorities the day the tanker

went aground. The results of the inquiry were not yet ready.

M. Chapon emphasized that the difficulties in reaching the vessel amid sharp rocks and breaking waves had raised the question whether it was worth risking human lives in such an enterprise when the Olympic Bravery carried no cargo of oil. There was pollution, he conceded, but only hundreds of tonnes of oil were involved.

From late January international tenders had been put out by the authorities in France. But the technical difficulties had caused international firms not to take them up.

While emphasizing that he was not referring specifically to the case of the Olympic Bravery, M. Chapon noted that France was very opposed to the phenomenon of flags of convenience.

Experience showed, he said, that it was through doubtfully skilled crews and doubtful respect for international safety regulations that such companies were able to offer serious competition to national lines.

France had several times made proposals to the European Community for action. The prefecture of Finistere, to whom the mayor of Ushant had appealed for emergency action, argued that it was up to the owners to take steps to get the Olympic Bravery off the rocks before the storms came. But the prefecture maintains that 24 hours before these storms broke Lloyd's, the insurers, decided that the vessel must be regarded as a lost cause and prepared to pay the owners compensation.

UN group to coordinate satellites' work

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, March 22

An extraordinary role envisaged for the United Nations in a future system for remote sensing by satellites of the earth's natural resources is being considered here by the 37-nation scientific and technical subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space.

It will also discuss at its two-week meeting here the possibility of setting up a panel of international experts on remote sensing.

According to a United Nations working group report, the most valuable applications of remote sensing are connected with agriculture, water resources and forestry. It estimates the yearly benefits could be several hundred million pounds by the 1980s.

Nato defence study quoted in MPs' warning

By Our Political Staff

Six Conservative MPs have tabled an early day motion at the House of Commons giving warning of the danger of further defence cuts in the light of the study by a Nato general of the likely success of Warsaw Pact forces in a surprise attack on the West.

The MPs, led by Mr. Michael Marshall (Arun), note the contents of the study, which was first published in *The Times*, and say that any Government proposals for further defence cuts would "represent an unjustifiable risk to Western security".

The motion points out that such an attack could be made by the Warsaw Pact using only conventional forces. It urges the Government to reverse the decline in the proportion of spending allocated for conventional weapons and manpower.

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Orphans' former guardian threatened with jail

Copenhagen, March 22.—Mr. Jørgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, said today the former guardian of 200 Vietnamese war orphans and their guardians could be jailed if they tried to get in touch with the children after the week-end scenes of violence.

The children came here last April. After a special Cabinet meeting today Mr. Jørgensen announced measures to isolate the orphans from Herr Hennig Becker, the West German journalist, who brought them here.

Earlier, welfare authorities asked up a number of the orphans after they went on a rampage against Becker, being separated from Herr Becker. Twenty-eight of the 200 children smashed furniture and windows yesterday at a welfare home. Some police were injured.

Last Friday the police took the children from the house where they were staying with Herr Becker, from whose guardianship they were removed last month.

Mr. Jørgensen said Herr Becker would probably be put under a restraining order by the police to stay away from the children. If he got in touch with them he could be jailed.

—Reuter.

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BRITISH GAS

OVERSEAS

President Bourguiba alleges Libya sent assassins to Tunis in plot against him and Premier

From Richard Wigg
Paris, March 22

President Bourguiba of Tunisia alleged in an interview with the French state radio today that an attempt had been made last week by "a commando unit" to assassinate him and Mr. Hedi Nouri, his Prime Minister.

"Libya has sent us assassins in order to avenge the failure of the January, 1974, attempt at a Tunisian-Libyan union," Mr. Bourguiba said on France 2 radio. The union was announced with a solemn joint declaration, but never put into effect by the Tunisian President.

President Bourguiba said that he was sure that the assassination attempt of Algeria, the approval of "Mr. Gaddafi" (the Libyan leader's) way of going on.

According to the Tunisian President, the commando unit consisted of the Libyan-Tunisian frontier last week and intended to strike as Tunisia celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its independence ending the French protectorate.

President Bourguiba made the disclosure to a French radio station which had gone to Tunisia to cover a visit by M. Michel Poniatowski, the Minister of the Interior. He was official guest at the celebration together with Mr. Nelson Rockefeller, the American Vice-President.

According to some reports in Paris, Mr. Nouri, who is President Bourguiba's designated successor, was the chief target

of the Libyans, and not the President, who is 73.

The head of the Tunisian security services said later that the three members of the commando unit had all been arrested and that they had confessed.

President Bourguiba said that he would be withdrawing his ambassador from Tripoli. But he emphasized that he would still endeavour to go on living in peace with the Libyan people.

The allegation of the assassination plot marks a further worsening of relations between the two countries, already strained by the expulsion early this month of more than 5,000 Tunisian workers and shopkeepers from Libya. There was also a highly personal attack on the Tunisian President by Libya's head of state on the radio on March 12. Mr. Bourguiba was accused in that broadcast both of being "bought by American colonialism" and of being "too old and ill" to grasp Tunisia's problems.

M. Chirac, the French Prime Minister, is winding up today an official visit to Libya, where yesterday he had a three-hour talk with Colonel Gaddafi at Tobruk.

Apparently Colonel Gaddafi mentioned then to M. Chirac his unease over worsening relations with Tunisia. The plot allegation is obviously awkward for Mr. Chirac who had gone to Libya in an attempt to gain the country's cooperation in resolving the tense situation between Algeria and Morocco over Western Sahara.

Tripoli, March 22—Major Jalloud, the Libyan Prime Minister, today denied Tunisian allegations about the assassination plot.

Major Jalloud told reporters: "We are not killers. Our revolution has moral principles. We do not believe in assassination or in interference in the affairs of others."

He added: "It is true that Tunisia regime is weakened but we are not the tutors of the Tunisian people, who can act on their own."

He said that the Tunisian accusations were "provocations" arising from "the discovery of oil in the Gulf of Gabes". He accused Tunisia of inviting new American units into the waters of the gulf near the border with Libya—Agence France-Presse.

Cairo, March 22—The official Middle East News Agency (MENA) said last night that Libyan authorities had closed its office in Tripoli and asked its correspondent to leave the country within 48 hours.

The agency added that Egypt had decided to take a similar measure against the correspondent of the Libyan Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA) in Cairo.

MENA said that its correspondent in Tripoli, Mr. Abdul Salam Massoud, had been asked to leave yesterday. It did not make clear when the Egyptian measure against ARNA's correspondent was expected to take place.—Reuter. Leading article, page 15

As springtime fancies turn to bicentennial year...

Henry V imitates the actions of contemporary Washington

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, March 22

The snow has stopped, the cherry blossoms are out, and Washington is beginning to celebrate the Bicentennial in earnest.

The National Gallery has put on its first Bicentennial exhibition, on Europe's decidedly curious view of America in the earlier centuries of its discovery; the first section of the capital's underground railway opens on Wednesday; and the Folger Theatre has put on Henry V.

The whole 98-mile subway system was due to be ready by July 4; Washingtonians will be lucky if it is ready by 1980. Henry V opened on time, however; the Folger is one of the world's most idiosyncratic theatres, an almost exact reproduction of the Globe, attached to one of the world's largest

collections of Shakespeariana.

Playgoers, therefore, can see the show much as its first audience did, although the building is square, not round, and the roof is covered. Henry V, with its themes of the duties of kingship and the subservience of subjects to their monarch, is an apt play for contemporary Washington.

Mr. Richard Nixon remarked the other day that a "sovereign" was permitted to do things which ordinary citizens were not, and King Henry would doubtless have agreed. They both believed that government is a mystery about which lesser mortals ought not to worry themselves.

The show produced by Louis Scheider and with Richard Kline in the title role, is the most successful Shakespearian production the Folger has put on in recent years. The group

is one of several in Washington trying to bring a proper theatrical life to the city, to match the musical success and continuity of the National Symphony Orchestra.

The theatrical scene here, in one of the best-educated cities in the world, is surprisingly barren. But Washington is lucky to have a theatre as good as the Folger and its colleagues, notably David Cromwell, who played Pistol, and Kathleen Ireton, who played Mistress Quickly.

Meanwhile, more grandiose celebrations are in the making, including a Scottish tartan and fireworks around the Washington Memorial. No one has a firm idea of how many visitors will come here this year, but estimates range as high as 20 million. In any event, it will be a crowded summer.

Pakistan plans new nuclear power plant

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, March 22

Pakistan is set on developing nuclear power. Dr. Munir Ahmad, chairman of its atomic energy programme, said here today that the Government would start construction on a 600-megawatt nuclear power plant by the end of the year at Chashma, on the River Indus, about 150 miles south of Rawalpindi.

Dr. Ahmad announced an ambitious plan to set up a chain of 24 nuclear power plants in the north and south of the country by the end of this century to make up for a lack of reserves of fossil fuel and to meet future power requirements.

The Chashma power plant is to be ready by 1983 and will be the second one in Pakistan.

There is already one of 125 megawatts in Karachi.

Dr. Ahmad said the proposed nuclear plant would cost \$527m (£270m), including \$222m in foreign exchange. Plant would be bought in the international market through open tenders.

Pakistan has already reached agreement with France on buying a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant.

Argentine political violence grows more savage

Buenos Aires, March 22—

Rightist and leftist groups have stepped up political violence in Argentina in the past week leaving at least 40 people dead.

Nine of the victims were policemen shot down at random from speeding cars by left guerrillas, who also wounded four soldiers. A civilian was killed when a bomb exploded in the parking lot of an Army's general command, wounding four colonels.

The 30 other victims were mostly students and trade unionists, kidnapped by groups armed men in their homes on the streets at night, and found, shot to death in various places.

These rightist groups, which operate in Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Rosario, Mendoza, Bahía Blanca, La Plata and other cities, are believed to have close contacts with the federal and provincial police. They identify themselves sometimes with such cryptic names as "commandos of the American liberation."

In some cases, the members of these groups have been identified with right-wing Peronist units in conflict with left-wing Peronists, opposed to the Government of Señora Peron. In other cases they are identified with militant anti-Peronist groups in the student bodies of universities that have been purged of leftist faculty members and students.

In the event of a military coup, armed and communist civilian groups are expected to be prepared to take even wider action against people they have listed as subversives or suspected collaborators.

As a result of military and police security operations, there are now believed to be nearly 5,000 people in jail here accused of subversive crimes. Some have been convicted, but many have been held for months without trial, at the disposal of the executive.

High military sources said yesterday that the commanders of the armed forces, who are reported to be on the verge of overthrowing President Peron, have approved decrees that, in the event of a coup, would establish the death penalty for subversive activities.

These decrees would be enforced by summary military trials under the direct responsibility of local military commanders in areas declared to be in a state of emergency. There would be no recourse to the civil court. There is no death penalty under Argentine law except in time of war.

Whole families of suspected leftists have been wiped out by right-wing groups, New York Times News Service.

Three face death sentences in Niger coup case

Maney, March 22—Two officers and a civilian charged with

plotting an abortive coup in Niger will be tried by a military court and risk death sentences.

They are Major Bayere Soussou, former Minister of Internal Economy, Captain Sidi Mohamed, a former official at the Ministry of Defence, and Ahmed Moudou, former secretary-general of the National Union of Niger Workers.

President Kountche told a press conference that investigations had shown that about 20 people, both civilian and military, had been involved.

For the rebels had been killed on March 7 by the air, not bringing Libya's first delivery of relief food to Niger, a President said. But the Niger Government was not suspected of having sanctioned the attack in any way.—Agence France-Presse.

Rebel killed in S Vietnam gun battle

Saigon, March 22—South

Vietnamese security forces killed one rebel, wounded two and arrested 29 when they fought a gun battle with "reactionary elements" more than a week ago, according to the official newspaper *Giai Phong*.

The fighting took place in An Giang province 120 miles southwest of Saigon.

The newspaper said security forces discovered two underground ammunition dumps and seized arms and ammunition. The 29 arrested included the leader of an underground group known as "Cua Vang" (Yellow Crab).

An armed rebellion earlier this year in Saigon was crushed by Government troops after a 13-hour siege at the Vinh Son Roman Catholic church here. Two rebels and a police officer were killed.—Reuter.

Dacca says India violated Ganges water agreement

Our Correspondent
Dacca, March 22

A deadlock between India and Bangladesh over the use of the vital Ganges waters during the low water season lasted last week.

Mr. Admiral M. H. Khan, Bangladesh Chief of Naval Staff, replied to the Indian Foreign Minister's proposal for the withdrawal of water at this critical time was unilateral and "unilateral". Any talks should cover the whole year, and not just during the dry season.

A Bangladesh spokesman said that the Farakka barrage, built by India, was a matter of concern between the two countries in the days of the Pakistan. India takes water from the Ganges, diverting it to the Hooghly so that about 100,000 people can be flushed out of the area.

Bangladesh needs the water for irrigation and to prevent encroachment of saline water from the Bay of Bengal. It is an area that is about one quarter of the cultivated land in the country. In May, 1974, the spokesman

explained, the two governments agreed that a mutually acceptable division of the water available must be made. Pending such an agreement Bangladesh, as a gesture of good will, agreed to the test run of the feeder canal for the period April 21 to May 31, 1975, with discharges varying from 11,000 to 16,000 cusecs (cubic feet a second), leaving the balance to flow to Bangladesh.

The agreement was for that period only. No understanding was reached during the rest of 1975, nor for any future years. Bangladesh says that India has violated the agreement by continuing to draw water beyond the period. Moreover, the Bangladesh observer who had been stationed at the Farakka barrage by agreement last year was asked to leave.

Bangladesh claims that the water flow began to drop below normal last December and has become serious now that the water is at lowest seasonal level. Far from discussing only the mid-March to mid-May period, the Bangladesh view is that the entire season from November to May is critical for Bangladesh needs.

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 Tomorrow: *Die Walküre* (7.30)
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 Sunday: *Die Walküre* (7.30)

THEATRES

THE ROYAL BALLET
 Tonight: *Swan Lake* (7.30)
 Tomorrow: *Swan Lake* (7.30)
 Monday: *Swan Lake* (7.30)
 Tuesday: *Swan Lake* (7.30)
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CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 01-230 3333
 Tonight: *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* (7.30)
 Tomorrow: *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* (7.30)
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 Sunday: *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* (7.30)

THEATRES

AMERICAN THEATRE 01-556 7511
 Tonight: *My Darling Clementine* (7.30)
 Tomorrow: *My Darling Clementine* (7.30)
 Monday: *My Darling Clementine* (7.30)
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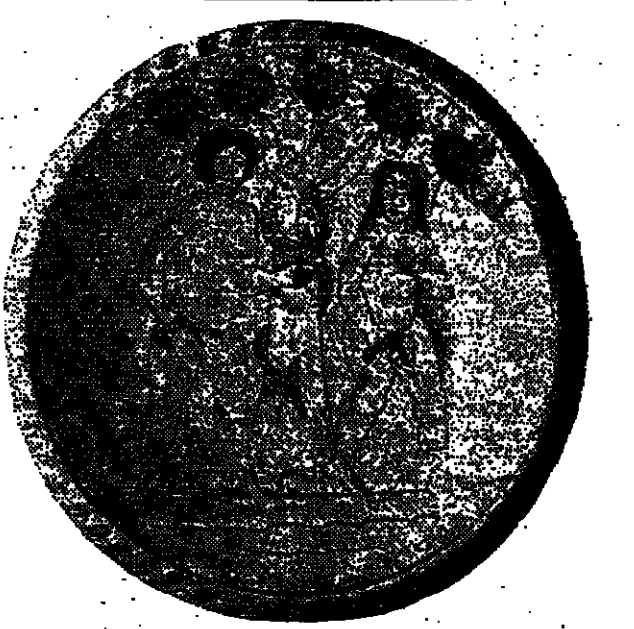
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THE ARTS



Dish with Adam and Eve, and, right, ballad sheet

Weddings through the ages

Paul Overy

The series of exhibitions put on over the last seven years by the Welsh Arts Council under the general title of *Art and Society* were imaginative extensions of the idea of an exhibition into an area previously occupied by the book. And Ken Baynes, who organized the shows with his wife Kate, based four books on them, available separately or as an omnibus edition, which have become classics of their kind, much used in schools and colleges.

The books and the first three exhibitions were not identical, but the last in the series, *Weddings through the Ages*, which opened at the National Museum of Wales on Saturday (it goes on until April 25) is substantially different from the book, which in this case was published earlier, and is called *Sex* (Welsh Arts Council, £2.50). The discrepancy is apparently due to the unwillingness of some of the Welsh galleries and museums which were to have shown the exhibition to accept the book title. It is a great pity, for the resulting compromise seems tame and decorative, and the book is refreshing, thoughtful and unadorned, without being in any way pornographic.

Small in scale compared to the earlier shows and contained within a decorative wedding-cake-like structure, the



Paddy Shannon courting the Widow Wilkins

Bill Gile and the time capsule

When *Very Good Eddie* reaches the Piccadilly Theatre in London tonight it will be almost exactly 60 years since the first production of *Very Good Eddie* (December 1915) at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. It established a new musical partnership between Guy Bolton (book) and Jerome Kern (music), two men who were jointly joined by a third, P. G. Wodehouse, who took the view that the best way to achieve a good musical was to have a writer who was a good writer. At around a year of eight shows a week) one New York critic had grown so devoted to the two Englishmen, Wodehouse and Bolton, and their American partner Kern that he wrote:

"The trio of musical fame, Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern; Better than anyone else you have ever heard of, they have made it just the way it is—that the whole point of *Very Good Eddie* is to show what life was like just before America got into the First War and lost her innocence."

The Piccadilly Theatre, where *Very Good Eddie* is now to be found first opened its doors in April, 1928, with a later Kern/Bolton musical (*Blue Eyes*) which ran for more than two years, after which the theatre—presumably unable to believe that it could strike lucky twice—rapidly became a cinema for the arrival of Al Jolson in *The Singing Fool*. But again, and the home for—among other musicals—*Man of La Mancha* which also started its life at the Goodspeed Opera House, and indeed provided that theatre with the hard cash it now pours exclusively into revivals of pre-First War American musical romances.

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The Piccadilly Theatre, where *Very Good Eddie* is now to be found first opened its doors in April, 1928, with a later Kern/Bolton musical (*Blue Eyes*) which ran for more than two years, after which the theatre—presumably unable to believe that it could strike lucky twice—rapidly became a cinema for the arrival of Al Jolson in *The Singing Fool*. But again, and the home for—among other musicals—*Man of La Mancha* which also started its life at the Goodspeed Opera House, and indeed provided that theatre with the hard cash it now pours exclusively into revivals of pre-First War American musical romances.

Bill Gile and the time capsule

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Maria Golovin Collegiate

Alan Blyth

Menotti's 1958 opera, *Maria Golovin*, about a blind youth who falls in love with his mother's seemingly widowed lodger, finally reached this country in a persuasive production by the composer. It was presented by the Park Lane Opera as part of the Camden Festival on Friday evening. Since its premiere, the work has been constantly revised, and it appears now to be set after the First World War rather than the last war.

The libretto, as usual with Menotti, is his own. The situation has real pathos, although it is often expressed in banal words. Through three normal-length acts, the relationship between the sympathetic Maria and the neurotically jealous Donato is credibly developed, and the supporting characters are more than two-dimensional. The Donato's mother, uncertain how to act in this precarious situation, Maria's young son, and his tutor, the fussy Dr Zuckertanz.

An escaped prisoner-of-war, more or less infected by the good of the plot, is less credible. While teaching them the tricks of his trade, above all the use of eyes in expression, he has also managed to think them out of words and music.

The results were evident in Sunday's performances by four sopranos, in Helen Walker's urgent and finely sustained Gretchen an Spinnat, in Margaret's wonderfully ardent Aufreize, in Patricia Richards's intense "Von Ewig Liebe", partnered in like fashion by Stephen Wilder. All three, and the lighter-voiced Fiona Robb, should make good even in the over-populated

Kokoschka's Thames

There has always been a mutual affection between Oskar Kokoschka and the British, ever since this Viennese Expressionist fled here during the Second World War and stayed to become a British subject. Therefore it is only fitting that the Marlborough Fine Arts should arrange a nineteenth-birthday celebration in the form of an exhibition of 20 of his landscapes, ranging from the 1920s to the late 1960s.

Kokoschka arrived in London in 1938 as a "decent" artist hotly pursued by the Nazis, starving and with only one small canvas under his arm. Sir John Rothenstein promptly set him down to a cup of tea. As the artist describes it in his autobiography, *My Life*, the director of the Tate asked him: "What beautiful things have you brought up from Prague?" and then inquired if he would be willing to donate a work to the Tate.

Others such as Sir Edward Bedington-Beltrams, Lord Croft and Lady Droghda showed their concern in a more immediate and realistic fashion, and during his many years in London the artist was commissioned to paint a fine group of portraits and a series of breathtaking views of the Thames. The core of the Marlborough show is five large views of London, all of them Thames scenes done from 1954 to 1967. However, these were not the first views of London that the artist did while visiting here during 1938 and again in 1939, he first painted the Tower Bridge and, upon his return, the White Cliffs of Dover, as well as 11 views of the Thames. It is said that the present exhibition has none of these earlier works for comparison.

"The river has always caught my imagination," he says. "It stimulates me, like the patriotic dreams that others have in their warm beds. My Thames!" And he reminds us that in the 1920s those were the days when the merchandise of the whole world was still shipped up the river. "When London was still a mother city, as the ancient Greek cities had been, from which a surplus population had spread out over the world."

In the thirty-odd years that

Mario Amaya

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Capital gains tax on disposal of 'part' of settled property

Penton (Inspector of Taxes) v Bell and Another
Crown v Appleby (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Lawton and Sir John Pennycuik
[Judgments delivered March 19]

On the death of a life tenant of a one-quarter share in settled property, section 25(4) of the Finance Act 1965, did not operate to require the whole trust fund to be deemed to have been disposed of for capital gains tax purposes.

The one-quarter share was a part of the settled property so that by virtue of section 25(12) only a one-quarter share of the fund was deemed to have been disposed of and thus chargeable to tax.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the Crown from a decision of Mr Justice Wainwright in *Penton v Bell*, and an appeal by Mr Appleby from a decision of Mr Justice Wainwright in *Crown v Appleby*.

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purposes a deemed disposal of the whole of the trust fund or only of the corresponding aliquot share of the fund.

Capital gains tax was a novel tax introduced by the Finance Act 1965. Section 25 was the critical section for present purposes. Over and above a deemed disposal of assets, it provided for a deemed disposal on the death of a life tenant and also at the end of every 15-year period.

Section 25(4) provided: "On the termination at any time after the death of a life interest in possession in all or any part of settled property, all the assets forming part of the settled property, except any which at that time were disposed of and are deemed to have been disposed of, shall be deemed to have been disposed of for the purposes of this Part of this Act at that time to be disposed of and are deemed to have been disposed of."

The other crucial subsection was (12), which provided: "If there is a life interest in a part which is a life interest in income, there is no right of recourse to, or to the income of the remainder of the settled property, the part of the settled property in which the life interest subsists shall while it subsists be treated as being settled property under a separate settlement."

Mrs Gladys Roberts had until her death in 1965 a life interest in one-quarter of the settled property. Her three sisters had equal life interests in the remaining three-quarters. When Mrs Roberts died, the one-quarter share was deemed to have been disposed of for capital gains tax purposes. The question was whether, if it decided in favour of the trustees in the first appeal, would also be conclusive in favour of the trustees in the second appeal.

In *Penton v Bell* the respondents were the trustees of a trust created by a will and the question was whether, on the death of a life tenant of an aliquot share of the trust fund, under that trust there was for capital gains tax

because 'part' did not mean a fraction but rather one or more appropriated or otherwise identifiable assets comprised in the settled property and that as her death Mrs Roberts had a life interest in all and not only in part of the settled property.

Looking more closely at the two subsections on which the appeal turned, Mr Lordship said that whether one interpreted 'part' in subsection (4) as denoting only a distinct item of property or as a share in the entirety of the fund, the effect was that, on a determination of a life interest in part of the settled property, the whole fund was to be deemed to have been disposed of with a consequent liability to tax—a very remarkable provision. But then there was subsection (12). On the natural construction of the words used, it was clear that it denoted either a distinct item of property or an undivided share in all the settled property. 'Part' was not a term of art; it was a word of wide scope.

If the two subsections were read together, the result was that when a life tenant died and an interest came to an end, the share in question was to be treated as being 'settled property' under a separate settlement. The effect was that the entire fund was to be deemed to be disposed of on that death. Moreover, it was that construction which produced a fair and logical result.

The difficulty arose from the peculiar nature of an undivided share. Where property was held in undivided shares each tenant in common had an interest in the whole of the fund. But his interest was confined to a proportionate share of that fund. He had no interest in the fund as a whole, but he had an interest in every asset. The true result was that each tenant in common was only

the beneficial owner of a ratable share of the fund. It might be said that construction gave rise to complexities of computation and administration, but it had not been said that they were in any way insuperable. Such difficulties were inherent in the nature of a subject matter such as property held in undivided shares.

The Crown's appeal in that case would be dismissed: and it followed that the appeal in the second matter must likewise fail. Lord Justice Buckley and Lord Justice Lawton delivered concurring judgments.

The appeals were dismissed with costs. Solicitor of Island Trusts: Messrs Standley & Simpson, North for Chapman, Baker & Wilson, Brighton.

Hunt & Hunt, Remford; Solicitor of Island Trusts: Messrs Standley & Simpson, North for Chapman, Baker & Wilson, Brighton.

Landlord's 'resident' claim fails

Barclay v Haycock and Others
The Court of Appeal (March 18) dismissed an appeal by a landlord for possession of three self-contained flats, rejecting his claim that they were not protected tenancies under section 5A of the Rent Act 1968. The appellants, Mr Donald Barclay, owner of the flats, and Mrs Haycock, one of the tenants, were appealing against an order of Judge Barr at Brentford County Court, March 1975, dismissing his claim for possession of the three flats at his address of which the five defendants were tenants.

Section 5A provides that "a tenancy of a dwelling-house... shall not be a protected tenancy if at any time it—(a) the dwelling-house forms part of a building and that building is not a purpose-built block of flats; and (b) the tenancy was granted to a person who, at the time it was granted, occupied as his residence another dwelling-house."

LORD JUSTICE SCARMAN said that the same point arose in the three appeals—whether Mr

Barclay could avail himself of the exemption offered to a landlord by section 5A. The judge had found that he could not. Photographs showed that the building which Mr Barclay owned was a substantial house. It was built early in this century and in 1950 was converted into six flats. Mr Barclay, who became the freeholder in 1963, had been planning permission to pull down certain lock-up garages and build a two-story extension for himself. The extension was structurally tied to the house, but there was no internal communication between it and the house and it had its own entrance. The judge found that the building was not a purpose-built block of flats; but he also found that Mr Barclay was not occupying as his residence a dwelling-house which also formed part of the building occupied by the defendants.

It was argued for Mr Barclay that the judge had erred in law. For the tenants it was said that the statute left the matter to the judge to decide on the facts. The question was whether, on the true construction of section 5A, it was a matter of fact for the judge to decide. The judge had clearly left it to the judge to decide the meaning of "building" having regard to all the circumstances of the case. There was no doubt that it was the intention of Parliament to relieve a landlord from the consequences of protection where it was reasonable to do so.

His Lordship was of opinion that there was abundant evidence that the judge could reach the decision that he did. He would dismiss the appeal.

Sir Gordon Willmer and Lord Justice Cairns agreed.

The riverside planning challenge

By John Young
Planning Reporter

It is often said, the Thames is London's most wasted asset, the most neglected stretch must be the south bank between Blackfriars Bridge and the Surrey Docks. Visitors are amazed that nearly five miles of riverside, much of it facing the most expensive land in Britain in the City of London, should be so shabby.

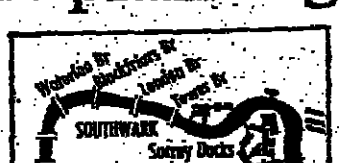
Its potential has not gone unrecognised and some large sites have been cleared. The developers have on the whole been encouraged by Southwark Council, which sees redevelopment of the riverside as the key to economic regeneration of the depressed borough.

The council has been criticised for its readiness to make deals with property companies. The Greater London Council does not want the area to be dominated by big, new office blocks. But the Government's recent overruling of GLC objections to the proposed 177,000 sq ft of offices between Southwark Bridge and Cannon Street railway bridge may mark a turning point.

Mr Cerd Griffiths, the borough's director of development, complains that GLC intervention has delayed the project by at least two years. He insists that the area is ideal for offices, within walking distance of the City, that its redevelopment cannot be financed from public funds; and that the housing, which developers are obliged to provide in return for planning permission, is a bargain for the council and its ratepayers.

Four main schemes are planned or under construction upstream from Tower Bridge. The most advanced is immediately east of Blackfriars Bridge and includes a computer centre for Lloyd's Bank, housing, shopping and a cinema. The area is available, the Unicorn children's theatre. Careful landscaping should soften the effect of the Bank-side power station, which dominates the area.

The second scheme, the one allowed by the Government, is owned by Laving Development, who plan to provide council flats, car parking and open space as well as offices. Adjoining it is an area at present in mixed ownership, which the council wants to redevelop itself.



Other appointments include: Professor Amos, Director of the Physics Department, University of London; Mr. T. Duckworth, BSc, MRB, CMB, senior lecturer in charge of the department of orthopaedics, has been appointed to a personal chair in orthopaedics from March 1976.

Mr. R. B. Zachary, MRB, CMB (Leeds), honorary director of the sub-department of paediatric surgery, has been granted the title of professor associate.

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self. It includes the Shakespeare's Globe and an appeal may be made to finance a replacement. Overshadowing the 38-acre Hay's Wharf stretching all the way from Cannon Street railway in Tower Bridge. Redeveloped proposals announced in 1971, for two hotels, 2,600 flats, and some 50 ft of offices, have since been clouded by political, economic uncertainty, a council hopes agreement.

Proposals for the Docks are to be announced soon. They include an international merchandise market, to be built by an American company.

Taken as a whole, the work waterside is rivalled by Covent Garden as a planning challenge since rebuilding at time bombing.

Mr Griffiths, who eight years with a development corporation, a staunch advocate of ship between local and private enterprise, area as complementary "nourishing" the City plan, he observes, "the site has become a field for conflicting interests."

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The foreign rush to buy

As the pound slips farther their borders for new supplies of art and antiques. Now they too are venturing into the art and antiques market. The idea of investing in art and antiques seems to have reached a new high in France. It is particularly fostered by the banks, many of which now have art investment subsidiaries. Since their clients are mainly drawn from the prosperous middle classes, the accent is on furniture, decorative items, and minor pictures by recognized artists.

French taste naturally favours anything French: French faience, like German, is doing well. The French are also particularly interested in Art Nouveau and Art Deco, including ceramics, glass and furnishings.

Italy has always been one of England's best clients in art and antiques. With their marvellous old cities steeped in history, they have wanted old furniture and paintings to complement their homes. This burgeoning middle class demand simply could not be satisfied within its frontiers; even in the nineteenth century the production of fine furnishings and objects was limited in Italy by the small ruling class that could afford them. Second hand furniture has been exported to Italy in bulk for more than a decade; Italians contribute to the demand for Old Master paintings and are keenly interested in their own nineteenth century schools—for some reason quite different from Italian nineteenth century painters found their way to England. Italian majolica is fanatically pursued.

The Italians have now been joined by the Spanish. I say joined because their tastes for old furniture and old paintings seem to be similar. But the increase in the number of Spanish dealers who come to England has brought a sudden change in value of anything Spanish. The jump in value of Spanish furniture, Geraldine Norman

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Why Russia will try to save the idea of détente

As the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Andrei Gromyko, begins talks in London with Mr. Callaghan and Mr. Wilson, a report from Moscow considers the recent erosion of East-West détente.

Recent statements and moves by President Ford and Dr. Kissinger are giving Moscow the distinct impression the President was not just playing with words when he said he would no longer use the term "détente" to describe United States policy towards the Soviet Union, and would replace it with the phrase "peace through strength". When Mr. Ford first made this remark in the heat of the Florida primary campaign, the Soviet press ignored it. In private, responsible spokesmen made allowances. They said they realised the President was up against the arch-reactionary Mr. Ronald Reagan in an arch-conservative state.

Since then the President has recommended two record Pentagon budgets, and has cast doubt on the conclusion of a new Salt 2 agreement with the USSR. Now comes the announcement that the President will not meet with Soviet leaders until the summer. The Soviet press has been notified by letter that the American side required further time to prepare for the meeting. Similar letters were received by Moscow concerning meetings of the Housing and Urban Development Committee and the Joint Commercial Commission, both of which were to meet this spring, though the exact dates had not been set. None of these letters gave the reason for the suspension since voiced by Dr. Kissinger, that one could not do business as usual with the Soviet Union after its behaviour in Angola.

Chances for success are dampened

Negotiations on United States purchase of Soviet oil have also been suspended. Though each of these activities and negotiations in different areas is by itself of minor importance, the cumulative effect of postponement could dampen chances for success of the far more important Salt 2 negotiations, which, according to both President Ford and Dr. Kissinger, are expected to go on. Moreover, though Mr. Ford's campaign effort to outmanoeuvre Mr. Reagan has usually served its initial campaign purpose, it retains much of its momentum, largely because opinion polls show increasing disillusionment with détente.

On top of all this, Egypt's abrogation of the friendship and cooperation treaty, comes as a slap in the Soviet face. Rightly or wrongly, the Russians suspect the hand involved was that of the United States. The conviction has been growing in Moscow that President Sadat was counting with the Americans from way back, that he probably has CIA connections. *Pravda* cites the New York Daily News comment that Mr. Sadat's break with the Soviet Union is "good

news for the United States and Israel" and increases opportunities for channelling Egypt in the direction desired by the United States.

There have been other incidents which might seem significant. There was the recent and still unresolved flurry over alleged microwave radiation beamed at the American Embassy in Moscow, claimed to be injurious to personnel. Shots fired at the Riverdale residence of the Soviet United Nations mission; harassment of mission members and their families by demonstrating Jewish "militants"; and the bombing of the Aeroflot airline office in midtown New York—these produced a series of strongly worded Soviet protests, charging the authorities with laxity, almost complicity with the offenders, in failing to provide adequate protection.

The Soviet attitude remains one of caution and reserve. Moscow is still officially pledged to the policy of détente reaffirmed by Mr. Brezhnev at the recent Communist Party congress, including continued efforts to improve relations with the United States. At the same time, there is growing concern over trends now quite aligned with projections by Kremlin policy planners. Their position papers on the United States are distilled in a "think tank" called the "USA and Canada Institute". First established in 1958, as a branch of the Soviet Union Academy of Sciences, the tank now has panels of experts immersed in all aspects of the North American scene. The director, an urbane, erudite Academician, Mr. Georgy Arbatov, was made a candidate member of the Central Committee at the twenty-fifth party congress.

The Soviet leaders would hardly have taken such a calculated risk in Angola without first consulting Mr. Arbatov and his Washington-watchers on probable United States reaction. They probably reasoned that for the better part of every leap year, effective government drive, including conduct of foreign policy, is partly paralyzed by the distractions of the presidential election campaign. This time paralysis has been aggravated by the aftermath of Watergate, the rift between an appointed President and a recalcitrant Congress, and the impact of world economic recession.

It is conceivable that the experts now feel they may have underestimated American reaction. Now that Angola is a closed chapter, the Kremlin is unlikely to push its luck any further in that direction. It will probably urge restraint on its Cuban underestimates (though they might prove harder to leash than it was to unleash them).

Meanwhile the Russians will continue to press for a Salt 2 agreement, despite Mr. Ford's present coolness, and otherwise seek to repair recent erosion of United States-Soviet relations. They are still as eager as ever for access to American technology, and relations with American business firms continue normally despite political obstacles: barring impediments, after the elections, this could be the ballast for renewed stabilization. It is a kind of love-hate relationship.

Edmund Stevens

The gloomy reality that must eliminate five out of six

Bernard Levin

What the Labour Party and the country need is not a tactician or a strategist but a man of principle...

no time for misunderstanding—I had better say that: I am not calling for a Prime Minister who will have a "confrontation with the unions" or a showdown with the "left" or any other such exciting comic-strip programme, with Mr. Jenkins in the role of Dan Dare, and Mr. Preece, say, appointed Lord High Executioner and sent out with instructions not to come back except with a tumbrel full of severed heads, including both of Mr. Benn's. Any Labour Prime Minister will need to keep the cooperation of those who dispense power in the unions; this is not because his position will not be secure unless he does, but because the cooperation of any of the things the country needs are to be successfully accomplished. Everybody talks as if Mr. Foot has some kind of mystic bond with Mr. Jenkins which only he who wields Excalibur can understand; the belief, however, depends on the assumption that Mr. Jones is a fool who does not understand his own interests. But Mr. Jones is not a fool, and he does understand his own interests; he drives a bargain, and he will drive it with any Prime Minister at all. The trouble with Mr. Callaghan is not that he will be a conciliator, for any Labour leader must conciliate; not that he will be a pragmatist, for whoever wins must be a pragmatist; not that he refuses to get excited by a refusal to get excited is essential to the office of Mr. Foot and Mr. Benn, as it happens, are ruled out on all

three of those counts, but Mr. Callaghan is not. His weakness is a subtly different one; it is that in the search for a means of avoiding trouble he will constantly succumb to the temptation to deny reality. But the reality is here already; we are in the crisis, not about to meet it over the next hill but one, and the result of denying its existence will be not only to damage the country still further (and the members of the PLP, after all, are citizens, too), but to ensure a massive defeat for the Labour Party whenever the election comes. Mr. Foot would ensure such a defeat, of course, though on other grounds; whatever his residual qualities of kindness and tolerance, he is seen by millions whose views will be essential at a general election as a brutal, authoritarian and implacable Robespierre, and it is useless to tell those who believe as much that they are wrong, for the belief is immovable, and it must—must—be borne in mind by any Labour MP, not already committed to the left, who is even now contemplating voting for Mr. Foot because he has passion and eloquence to rouse the sleeping faithful. If you want real confrontation, gentlemen, and an electoral massacre to follow, vote for Mr. Callaghan. He is not at all a fool, though he is not very clever. He is not a rogue; indeed he is probably more honest than many a man who gets excited by a refusal to get excited is essential to the office of Mr. Foot and Mr. Benn, as it happens, are ruled out on all

Is Dr Castro playing the crusader again?

The Angolan war is not the first time Dr Fidel Castro has involved Cubans in African affairs. Ten years ago he sent a 200-strong expeditionary force to Congo under the leadership of Che Guevara. Remarkably little is known of this campaign; just that it was unsuccessful and that after six months of frustration, Guevara went off to lead a still more disastrous Castro-sponsored campaign in Bolivia. Here he was, it is said, that he had failed to do in Africa—to start a strategically placed revolutionary fire that would spread over a whole continent. In fact he failed again and lost his life in the attempt.

Cuban intervention in Angola today is a different story. The expeditionary force numbers some 15,000 troops, the whole campaign has been highly publicized, and most important of all it has been highly successful.

But because the Cubans have been operating with Soviet arms and financial backing, they are generally considered nothing more than Soviet mercenaries. I believe this is an oversimplification. In the case of Castro's mercenary beliefs and previous foreign ventures, could he not perhaps be crusading again on his own initiative?

Dr Castro has always had a romantic, Walter Mitty streak in his complex, colourful personality. It was common knowledge throughout the first 10 years of his dictatorship that he saw himself as a second Simón Bolívar, riding on a white horse the length of Latin America, liberating its peoples from capitalist/imperialist misrule.

It was only after Guevara's fiasco in Bolivia in 1967 and Dr Castro's own agricultural and industrial catastrophes at home that followed, that he was to put sufficient pressure on him to curb the extrovert Cuban leader's taste for foreign adventure.

This is why for the next three years

nothing was heard of Cuban intervention abroad. With the help of something like three-quarters of a million pounds a day in Soviet subsidies, Castro's confidence in his own initiative was restored. He began to rebuild bridges with the countries of Latin America which had broken with him after the missile crisis in 1962.

But Dr Castro's crusading ambitions have been dampened, not quenched. In 1973 there were well substantiated stories that he was sending a Cuban military unit to the Yemen, and of Cuban military equipment being landed at Aden. The following year, 100 Cubans were reported "advising" Syrian forces, and 80 Somalis went to Cuba for "political and other instruction". Then suddenly last year we saw the little island of some 8,000,000 inhabitants, which 14 years ago brought the whole world to the brink of nuclear war with its rockets, publicly and proudly rolling a powder keg into Africa, 6,000 miles from home.

We are unlikely ever to know how far this recent Cuban intervention was Soviet-inspired and how far it was Dr Castro's own initiative. It is not difficult to appreciate why the Soviet Union would welcome the chance to embarrass the western European, American, Rhodesian, South African and even Chinese governments at home and in their relations with each other—and the opportunity to set up an Atlantic security system in the bargain.

But what was Dr Castro for? I say Dr Castro rather than Cuba, because Dr Castro is Prime Minister, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and Secretary of the Communist Party. It is he who makes the decisions and it is his personality, beliefs and ambitions that matter. The situation was, in fact, a desperate opportunity to catch the imagination of the whole world with the story of Cuban people, the descendants of slaves, returning to free the homeland of their forebears from colonial domination against

white, apartheid-orientated opposition. There would be manoeuvres with live bullets for Dr Castro's highly efficient fighting forces; the strong possibility of success in the future even for the country's dignity and gold medals at the Olympic Games; the possibility of an early option on Angola's natural resources. There would be the chance to wipe out the memory of Cuba's earlier abortive mission in the Congo, and incidentally bring back a little sparkle to Dr Castro himself.

And now that he has been successful, what next? There are still too many unknowns to make a worthwhile guess at how long Cuban troops will stay in Angola; whether, heady with victory, they will be tempted to push over the border. Who is to say that he might not now regard Africa as a dress rehearsal for some Latin American adventure to wipe out the memory of Guevara's Bolivian disaster? It is certain that the idea will have occurred to him, and that he will have given it an airing during his recent visit to Moscow. For a man who 20 years ago set out from Havana to lead his countrymen to overthrow his country's government and succeeded against all the odds—the idea is not an extravagant one. His irregular (by our standards) manner of life and dress, his wild utterances, the lack of judgment he showed in the stories in internal and external affairs, have understandably not helped his cause. But his personality, his dynamism and his determination. When his fanatical aspirations for himself and for his country chime with the tactical or strategic planning of the Soviet Union, he is still, in my view, a force to be reckoned with wherever the winds of change could be blowing.

Sir Herbert Marchant

The author was British Ambassador to Cuba at the time of the missile crisis. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1976.

Devolution: finding a cool welcome in Wales

There is no doubt that public reaction to the Government's White Paper on devolution is ambivalent. On the one hand, there are many people who think that these proposals do not go far enough. They take the view that the proposed Welsh Assembly should be strengthened by giving it legislative powers as well as some economic functions. The Welsh Nationalists go much further than this. They are asking for a Welsh Government with its own foreign policy so that Wales would have the same status in the EEC and other international organisations as the Republic of Ireland or Denmark.

If the maximum demands for devolution were granted the fabric and structure of the United Kingdom would be broken. The more moderate proposals such as the Welsh TUC and a part of the Welsh Labour Party support the Government's contention that devolution is no more than a mild injection of regional government that will leave the political framework of the United Kingdom relatively undisturbed.

These views cover a considerable part of the spectrum of public opinion since they range from those who think that the White Paper proposals are about right to those who want nothing less than a Welsh nation-state. But the surprising thing is that the public opinion polls are showing that the pro-devolution stance does not command more than minority support in Wales. More remarkable in that five or six years ago, when the Welsh Nationalist Party was in power, there was a fairly strong majority support for a Welsh Parliament.

I should like, therefore, to give some of the reasons why I think this change has taken place.

Changes would be biggest for centuries

I tend to believe the polls when they indicate flagging support for devolution in Wales since the same mood is captured in a wide range of public statements, as well as in the more informal discussions.

For example, it seems that 70 per cent of the population want a referendum before changes are made, a modest request since the Government itself says the proposed constitutional changes are the most fundamental of their kind for several centuries. I suspect that the Cabinet's continued refusal to agree to a referendum is not unconnected with its fear of a substantial rebuff for the White Paper in Wales.

Why, then, are the Welshmen against devolution? I think that their attitude stems from five main reasons. First, there is the political argument. The Welsh are radical in their politics and about half the electorate supports the Labour Party. But socialism for most is an objective for Britain as a whole, not just for Wales. In particular, the left wing of the Labour Party still follows the dictum of Aneurin Bevan that the seat of power is in Westminster and Whitehall so that self-government for Wales is, at best, an irrelevant issue.

Devolution, in the long run, is bound to mean diminished representation for Scotland and Wales in the House of Commons, and will therefore lessen the chances for the Labour Party to form a government in the United Kingdom as a whole. Even in the short run Welsh MPs will find their authority undermining impaired if a Welsh Assembly assumes control of education, local government and the social services.

Secondly, there is the question of the machinery of government. One finds much regret

in Wales that the changes would involve a much reduced role for the Secretary of State for Wales and the Welsh Office, no more than 11 years after their creation. It should be remembered that the Welsh Office is now settling down into a well-defined and useful role after a difficult start. Its main impact has been in regional policy, in the economy and environmental aspects, and more recently still in attracting EEC resources to Wales.

To consolidate and strengthen this department would be of material advantage to Wales. But the Government's proposal will drastically reduce the scope and authority of the department, and for much of its future existence it is likely to be in sustained conflict with the Welsh Assembly. There are few in Wales who see this as a welcome for good government. Thirdly, there is the future of local government. It would be idle to deny that the reform of the structure of local government in 1974 was popular. The emergence of the larger administrative counties has been accompanied by serious over-manning of the local government service and is currently beset by inflation and a steady rise in the rates. There is also the feeling that a Welsh Assembly, despite its lack of legislative power, will stimulate another upheaval and a further reorganisation of the government. Most Welshmen blink at the thought.

Fourthly, many people in Wales argue strongly against devolution on economic grounds. The Welsh standard of living is unimproved and support by the English, and there seem no immediate prospect of Celtic sea oil to tempt us, as the Scots have been tempted, to cut ties with England.

We have a bleak outlook. Once devolution is established English MPs will no longer be inclined to favour Wales at the expense of their own relatively poor regions of the North-West and the North-East.

Fifthly, the likely cost of devolution arouses concern. The White Paper is comfortably reassuring that the expenses involved in setting up the Assembly and the future development of its bureaucracy will be on a small scale. But past experience suggests that change suggests the contrary. More is likely to be spent on the machinery of government and less on its output in services to the community.

The present mood of the Labour Government and the conservative opposition is a transfer of resources away from the public sector to make room for private investment in manufacturing industry. Devolution inevitably implies a more costly apparatus of government, an overhead which is not yet visible in Wales.

I think these five arguments account for the current mood of scepticism in Wales. There are other important issues which I have not discussed here, particularly the question of the Welsh language which has been a major issue in the past. Much also needs to be done to improve the style of democratic and public participation in decision-making in central and local government, while the numerous "ad hoc" bodies concerned with subjects such as health, education and housing need to be more firmly integrated into the institutions of representative government.

The White Paper has made some valid points in these areas which need serious study and research. Although I cannot examine them in this article, I believe there are ways of strengthening the element of public control over the executive without at the same time incurring the likely deleterious consequences of the proposals that are before us.

Prof Ivor Gowan

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The Times Diary

A guide to the best in squatting

People who want to live in London but cannot afford to buy do not want to wait for years at the bottom of a council housing list, have, in recent years, been increasingly turning to squatting. It is free, easy, and reasonably secure, considering the legal difficulties and delays that housing authorities encounter in their efforts to dislodge squatters.

If you are really lucky, you can even become a licensed squatter. In return for payment of a nominal sum to the Greater London Council or one of the boroughs, you can live rent-free in some of their less luxurious spare housing. The GLC has about 1,200 properties illegally occupied by squatters, but it has some 2,000 licensed squats, where people live rent-free on condition that they depart when the GLC wants the property for redevelopment.

Individual boroughs, led by Islington, can offer squats among their own properties. The number of people living illegally in GLC, local council and private accommodation in the greater London area is probably around 8,000, although everyone agrees it is a difficult figure to estimate.

Alan Hamilton has been visiting a cross-section of London squats; his first stop was in Islington, and he reports:

The Hornsey Rise estate consists of three large blocks of flats, built around 1927 and commanding a sweeping view over north London. Two years ago the GLC, which owns the estate, began moving out and rehoused the tenants with the intention of converting the flats into high-grade council accommodation, and the squatters immediately began moving in. There are now about 250 of them, including about 30 children.

The GLC has taken the case of Hornsey Rise to the High Court in the hope of securing eviction orders against the entire squatting population, but is winning little support in obtaining the names of all those on whom it wants to serve the orders. Being less than 50 years old, the blocks appear in reasonable structural order, apart from several leaking exterior drain pipes, and the amount of deliberate vandalism is small. But the site is littered with rotting rubbish and several abandoned cars: while I was there one squatter accepted £2 from a passing scrap dealer for an old Ford Cortina whose owner had long disappeared.

Mick, who said he used to run a fish shop in Portobello Road, occupies a three-roomed first-floor flat with a large Alsatian, working toilet, and electric cooker. He admitted he did not pay for it. He had collected a few sticks of furniture, a broken-down television and a washing machine. One room showed slight traces of damp but otherwise the flat was sound, if untidy, and even had most of its wallpaper intact.

In a flat in the next block were four young men and a pregnant woman. They had installed a new boiler but had failed to make it work, and used the facilities in the empty flat next door. They had legal electricity, an ancient but serviceable cooker marked "GLC" and from an adjoining empty flat, and carpets on

the floor. They had rewired the entire flat and repainted most of it.

Some of the Hornsey squatters, particularly those who have children, are engaged in rehousing as council tenants with the normal choice of three homes as is common council practice. Others want to move to a licensed squat, and a few want to remain in Hornsey Rise with the GLC's blessing.

But on the morning I was there, one young man had had enough of the damp and the uncertainty over the council case. "Stuff this," I'm off to France," he declared struggling downstairs to a waiting van with rolls of bedding and a pot of paint.

Next: Charteris Road.

Saved

After a long campaign by conservationists, the Aggie has been saved at last. The remarkable Royal Agricultural School in Islington has been bought by the local council for what they regard as the bargain price of £1,200,000. Yesterday, to coincide with their formal takeover of the 44-acre site, Islington councillors led a conducted tour round the sad remains of one of the architectural wonders of London.

Built in 1861 to house the Smithfield Show, the Aggie has suffered years of neglect, and is now a windy barn of broken glass and peeling paint. Its last users, the Post Office over-

seas parcels department, abandoned it in 1971, and beneath such crumbling legends as "Barbados" and "Australian Transits Only", the damp has burrowed into its wood block floor and rusted its glass clunk into an eternity of grime. But the basic structure remains intact. The Victorian ironwork of the Main Hall still holds up one of the largest uninterrupted ceiling spans in the world, large enough to accommodate a full-size football pitch under glass. Patsy Bradbury, chairman of Islington council recreation committee, was clearly overwhelmed by the possibilities, and talked of an ice rink, a swimming pool with real palm trees, a trotting track or an exhibition hall. Next week council officers plan to shut themselves away for an entire day to try to think up a suitable use for the Aggie, which they have already decided should be something broadly recreational (though some council members think it should make way for new flats). They might be inspired by looking at some of the hall's previous uses, which include marauding walking races, Reform Bill meetings addressed by John Stuart Mill (he could not be heard at the far end), Cruik's dog show and a flea circus.

Not an entirely happy ending to my recent saga about the disappearance of old-fashioned silver plate powder, but at least a consolation prize. Goddards, who used to make it, still have no plans to put it back on the market, but they have made a small batch and are generously giving free packets to all who wrote to me and directly to them, lamenting its passing. Sadly, no further applications can now be considered.

You must admit Mrs Jenkins' diary will be more amusing than Mrs Callaghan's....



Poetic

Tulse Hill School in South London is a large comprehensive which, when it gets into the news at all, does so usually for the wrong reasons. Many of its pupils are black, and some took part in a noted fracas with the police in nearby Brockwell Park a year or two ago, which damaged race relations in the area. It is therefore pleasing to report the good and surprising news from Tulse Hill, Simon McMullen, a 15-year-old boy from Scunthorpe who has been a pupil there since he was 11, won one of the three main prizes in the national SM Young

Post Awards. The other two winners and three runners-up were all girls.

Simon's poem is a rumbustious work about Merlin, and it took him only 15 minutes to write it. "He is steeped in the Arthurian mythology," said Alasdair Aston, inspector for English with the Inner London Education Authority and one of the judges.

He is a pleasant, contemplative boy who survives at the school, it seems, by keeping at a distance from its most serious aspects. "It's not easy to get on there," he admitted. "But if you want to get down to it you can, if you're really interested."

"It's not nearly as violent as people say it is, and it's much better now than it was. It's not a hive of vandalism. It's no more violent than any other school."

"I find the social life there a bit swish. I races past me." He plans to stay on for "A" levels and then go to university and he likes writing his poetry.

We are always being told that our attitudes to royalty have grown more mature in recent years, but I see no evidence of this in recent coverage of Princess Margaret's separation. The Daily Mirror, in particular, treats us to the same sniggering drivel which it has always poured out on such matters. Their reporter who visited the Princess near Bath where the Prince stayed once, and its allied newspapers, wrote a story: "A final awesome thought is that I have visited the same loo as royalty. There are two of them at the restaurant—and I went to both to make sure." Ugh!

PHS

Strike picket lines again crossed at Leyland

By Clifford Webb

Engineering union members ignored their own union's picket lines to maintain production at Leyland's Triumph Coventry factory yesterday.

Truck drivers belonging to the Transport and General Workers' Union also crossed the picket lines on the advice of their regional officials.

This is the second time in five days that Leyland car workers have crossed picket lines in the Midlands.

The Leyland group of workers at Rover component plants in the Birmingham area ran the gauntlet of pickets' jeers.

As a result the company yesterday recalled 500 "support" workers at Rover's Lichfield, Ayr and 400 Birmingham workers are still laid off and Land Rover and Range Rover production is at a standstill for a second week because of a strike by toolroom personnel.

Toolroom men are also on strike at Warwick, but for a different reason. They object to pay differentials and are demanding parity with fitters.

The Rover toolroom personnel want a £2 a week increase backdated to February last year, but the Directors of the company has ruled that this is in breach of the pay code.

Panel vetoes Norwest share sale

The shares of Norwest, which last year reported a \$4m pre-tax loss, have been buoyed up by takeover speculation since last December's annual general meeting, when Mr D. B. Le Mare, the group's chairman, announced that "conditional agreement has been reached between the Le Mare family and others to sell their shares... to Messrs Slater and Lilley".

Yesterday Norwest's shares closed unchanged at 44p before news of the Takeover Panel decision reached the market.

By Our Energy Correspondent

British Petroleum and Venezuelan state and private interests are to go ahead with the development of a plant capable of producing 100,000 tons of protein a year from oil.

Technology pioneered by BP will be used for the plant costing between £40m and £60m at Puerto La Cruz in eastern Venezuela. It is expected to be commissioned early in 1979 and the output will be used for animal feedstocks.

BP has had considerable suc-

“We shall expect to maintain profits by further increasing our turnover... and expanding our outlets at home and abroad”


We have continued to make good progress and resources have again been substantially strengthened. We have therefore restored our dividend to what we regard as its normal level after making transfers to our reserves.

For the second year running we have made a new record for the intake and turnover of all types of bills. However, we are still not sufficiently confident of the outlook beyond the Budget to commit our funds to the bond market on more than a very temporary basis.

Kirkland-Whittrick's foreign exchange and currency deposits have continued to produce a good income, and good profits have again been earned in Europe, particularly in Holland and Luxembourg. The Group has extended its operation in the Far and Middle East and now has a new agency association operating with encouraging prospects in North America.

Results in Brief

Profit	£1,000,000
Ordinary Dividend for the year	£1,000,000
Capital and Reserves	£10,000,000
Total assets	£10,000,000

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In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, our name and reputation are now well established and we have dealt since the beginning of April through the London market with an increasing number of local banks in several Arab states.

Narrower margins on bills may persist but we shall expect to maintain profits by further increasing our turnover in all types of paper and expanding our outlets at home and abroad. Apart from occasional and very temporary investment in the Government bond market we expect to confine our bond policy to active jobbing.

Results in Brief	1976	1975
Profit	£550,461	£911,581
Ordinary Dividend for the year	13.00%	6.70%
Capital and Reserves	£3,381,571	£2,603,223
Total assets	£186,882,034	£157,895,042

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Housing policies are 'ineffective'

By Margaret Stone

Government intervention in the housing market to achieve social objectives was attacked by the Building Societies Association in the evidence, published yesterday, it has submitted to the Housing Finance Review.

Discussing the preferential treatment of different sectors of the community have received in the past (such as the £80m made available to hold down council rents last July), the association says: "If the Government feels that income should be redistributed from the rich to the poor, the simple

and effective way to do this is through the tax and social security systems, as is already being achieved."

"To attempt to discover the types of housing that the poor spend much money on and to subsidize these is a roundabout method of performing a relatively simple task."

It is also ineffective because of the "tremendous overlap" between council tenants and owner occupiers in respect of income and other socio-economic factors.

The association attacks "the ineffectiveness and arbitrariness of attempting to use housing policy to achieve

economic, social and political objectives."

It adds, "Frequently well-intentioned policies work to the detriment of the people they are intended to help, because of the peculiar characteristics of the housing market. The durable nature of dwellings means that the housing market is unique in that the second-hand market must be seen as a ladder. People join at the bottom end; they move slowly upwards until old age when they may move down again. Eventually they die and leave the ladder completely."

The association stresses that a solution for the first-time buyers' problems is not a complete answer. Only a quarter at most of first-time buyers buy a new dwelling and the bulk of the remainder buy houses from people who are moving."

Further distortions occur when the Government interferes with the market mechanism in respect of mortgage interest rates, which have "regrettably" become a "political sacred cow."

It is far better, says the report, "to be able to obtain mortgages at 11 per cent than not to be able to obtain them at 9 per cent."

\$1,300m loans to Italy and Ireland oversubscribed

From David Cross
Brussels, March 22

Loans totalling a record \$1,300m (about £650m) raised for Italy and Ireland on the European capital market reflected building confidence in Europe's economic strength, Herr Wilfried Guth, of the Deutsche Bank, said today.

Moreover, the European capital market had fully demonstrated its ability to compete with its American counterpart in large-scale financing operations. Indeed, all the loans had been oversubscribed.

Herr Guth, whose bank headed one of the consortia

which arranged the loans, said the "first-rate" terms of the bond issues were convincing proof that the Community had been accepted by the market as a first class borrower.

He announced that a \$300m loan over six years would carry a fixed 8.25 per cent interest rate, while the interest rate on a second loan for DM500m (about £100m) was being fixed at 7.25 per cent.

A third instalment of \$300m which has been organized by the London-based European Banking Company, will be repayable over five years at a variable interest rate of 1 per cent above the average inter-bank level.

Defence ministry urged to bring forward ship orders

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Pressure is growing on the Ministry of Defence to bring forward orders for vessels other than warships to help British shipyards, which need orders urgently if employment is to be kept at present levels beyond the middle of next year.

The Government is well aware of the problems and discussions have been taking place between the industry, Whitehall and the organizing committee of British Shipbuilders on measures which could help shipbuilding over its difficulties.

Preliminary studies are under way to see to what extent non-warship naval orders can be

brought forward to fill gaps in order books.

But the Government is already involved in cutting back defence spending, and it seems unlikely that any measures will be produced for some weeks. Another round of talks is scheduled to take place between leaders of the shipbuilding industry and the General Council of British Shipbuilders.

The shipowners' organization is also to have talks with ministers and senior officials of the Departments of Industry and Trade on ways of persuading British owners to bring forward their new order programmes and placing more of them with United Kingdom yards.

£25m Oman radar system deal for BAC

A contract worth £25m to provide a radar and communications system for the Oman department of defence has been won by the British Aircraft Corporation guided weapons division.

About £15m of the order goes to GEC-Marconi Electronic companies, who are sub-contractors to BAC.

The system will be integrated with those built into the Jaguar strike fighter and the Rapier low-level air defence missile which BAC have already sold to Oman.

BAC are responsible for a £300m defence support contract for the Royal Saudi Air Force. The corporation have 2,000 staff in Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan to build £262m nuclear plant

Pakistan will shortly call for tenders for its projected 600 megawatt nuclear power plant, the chairman of the Pakistan atomic energy commission, Mr Muneer Ahmed Khan, said yesterday.

Several Western companies have apparently shown interest in supplying the nuclear plant which is expected to cost \$527m (about £262m) of which \$222m will be in foreign currencies.

Mowlem wins £10m order

Two housing contracts together worth more than £10m have been won by Mowlem (Building). The first for the Greater London Council is for 414 flats and maisonettes in 19 blocks at Bells Garden Road, Southwark. The other is for 358 two and three storey homes at Turreford Springs, Hertfordshire, for the Borough of Broxbourne.

Saudi oil assurance

King Khalid of Saudi Arabia said yesterday his country will continue to make use of the expertise of foreign oil companies after the state takeover of the Arabian American Oil Co. "Until the technical infrastructure necessary is available to operate this vital enterprise."

90,000 seek £6 rise

Pay claims covering nearly 90,000 workers in the heavy chemical, plastics and pharmaceutical industries, are being submitted to the employers, the General Municipal Workers Union said yesterday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Textile import curbs are no answer

From Mr N. A. Bilitch

Sir, The chairman of Carrington Vytella is not lacking in the finer arts of sophistry. You report him (March 18) as advocating "the imposition of effective controls on cheap imports" of textiles from developing countries, and that this has been accompanied by a United Kingdom "deficit on textile and clothing trade with the main Asian supplier", which has led to a situation where, "the United Kingdom can no longer afford this kind of unreciprocated liberality" - whatever that is supposed to mean.

What is it he would have us believe? That the Asians are supplying us with clothes and textiles valued at millions of pounds for nothing? That, in order to bolster up the figures for their export trade, vast quantities of clothes and textiles are being shipped to the United Kingdom for which they do not expect to be paid in money, or goods of which they have need?

Mr Leonard Regan then goes on to develop his sophisticated advocacy of protection for domestic textiles by asserting "We are not looking for the taxpayers' money. All that we are seeking is effective control of imports" Who is Mr Regan fooling - himself or the taxpayer?

The latter, in case Mr Regan has overlooked the fact, is also

the consumer of textiles, and not to pay the increased prices that import controls will, as they have the effect Mr Regan desires, divert money from the taxpayers' pocket through higher prices, not into the Kingdom textile manufacturers' profit and loss accounts. That it may be a voluntary tax on importers is designed to raise prices for the benefit of producers at the expense of consumers.

If the consumer volunteers to pay the increased prices for domestically produced textiles, then Mr Regan and his associates will be no better off - in fact they are likely to be much worse off - and the poor consumer will then have to make do with his old clothes; in beggarly exchange and the maligned Asian, we shall be, as usual, the poorer.

In this bi-centenary year of the publication of *The Wealth of Nations*, the most apt quotation from Adam Smith's shrewd pen that comes to mind and which succinctly sums up Mr Regan's alleged benefits that import controls would bring about, states:

"Those who first taught it were by no means such fools as they who believed it."

Yours faithfully,
N. A. BILITCH
6 Rushmore Road,
Putney,
London SW15.

No need for subsidy on this rail line

From Mr D. V. Ellison

Sir, In reply to Mr Cross's letter of February 18, his expressed support for our service between London and the National Exhibition Centre is greatly appreciated. I must, however, query the logic behind his request for government subsidisation for this service.

The London - Birmingham route has one of our top great services and we are filling trains to capacity at prices which are profitable to B. This service is also one of those where the "first class" modulation is sold before the 2nd. Additionally, the existing prices of seating makes it value for money to customers arriving from overseas.

The answer simply is, we subsidize reduced prices on service where the market will pay the full rate, at a time when, as an industry, we are required to reduce the total financial support received from central government?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS ELLISON,
Chief Passenger Marketing Manager,
British Railways Board,
222 Marylebone Road,
London NW1 6JJ,
March 2.

A wage earner's view of a gold handshake

From Mr P. Reed

Sir, I hope Colonel de Lij ("Golden Handshake" *Emotive Social Issue*, Mar. 16) read of the Rank annual meeting in today's *Business News*. You report that, with reference to the £150,000 to be paid to the former managing director, Sir John Davis "that Mr Downson had failed to carry out the duties assigned to him under his contract".

In the light of this, Colonel de Lij may agree that it is not surprising that golden handshakes are very much an emotive social issue for a wage earner dismissed for failing to carry out his duties who would be lucky to get as much as a week's wages in lieu of notice.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL REED,
Shepherd Spring,
Amport,
Andover SP11 8BE,
March 17.

ICL gains favourable terms for Singer deal

Britain's International Computers appears to have gained extremely favourable terms in its acquisition of the international operations of the business machines division of Singer, announced last week.

For six months ICL will manage these operations on behalf of Singer, so acquiring a comprehensive knowledge of the business before assuming any financial risk and before deciding exactly what proportion of the business is to be taken over.

Details of the deal were given yesterday by Mr Tom Hudson and Mr Geoffrey Cross, chairman and managing director of ICL respectively. The main object of the acquisition, they indicated, was to gain access to the customer base of existing Singer small computers - about 1,300 users of Singer System 10 machines (plus users of other types) to add to ICL's existing base of about 3,400 computer users.

ICL would be taking over some of Singer's machine inventories, spares, and other assets, Mr Cross said. These three categories accounted for 36 per cent of the net assets (other items comprised accounts receivable,

Computer news

50 per cent; rental machines, 25 per cent; and liabilities 11 per cent).

On April 1, ICL will make a down payment of \$2m (about £1.04m) towards the eventual purchase price. By the end of September the British company will decide how much of the inventories, spares and other assets it wishes to acquire; and within one month will pay a second instalment to take the sum paid up to 15 per cent of the total purchase price. The formulae for calculating the price are already established; the exact figures depend on how much is taken over.

The remainder of the purchase price will be paid in three further instalments in October 1976, 1977 and 1980.

No decision has yet been made on future product strategy. This is one of four subjects which are to be examined by special committees who will report to Mr Doug Comish, who

has just been appointed ICL director of small business systems.

Mr Comish will be responsible for managing the Singer business machines operation, and for preparing its integration into ICL. The other three committees will look into product manufacturing (Singer are committed to continue manufacture until June 1977); customer engineering; and specially important accounts, such as the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

In parallel, Mr Cross and Mr Hudson will be reviewing Singer operations at each location. The international business which ICL is acquiring is in 15 countries in Europe and in Australia, South Africa, Mexico and Brazil; plus 18 dealerships in other countries.

Singer machines on rental on October 1, Mr Cross said, are being transferred to ICL at no charge.

The deal would give Singer users security for the future, Mr Hudson said, plus a product line of larger computers for those who needed to move upwards.

For ICL, Mr Cross said, the deal would be practical even if no Singer customer moved across to ICL equipment. "But obviously we expect to take a lot of them," he added.

In another announcement yesterday, ICL and Control Data Ltd, the United Kingdom subsidiary of Control Data Corporation of the United States, said the two companies had agreed in principle to form a joint company in the business products field.

The new company, to be known as Control Datasat, will "manufacture, procure and market computer media and computer direct to computer users."

The business products operations of Control Data in the United Kingdom, together with those of Datasat, the existing ICL subsidiary, will be transferred to the new company.

Chief executive of Control Datasat will be Mr Michael S. McLagan of Control Data.

The agreement excludes the Control Data factory at Brynmawr in south Wales.

Kenneth Owen

Rolls-Royce Motors dedicated to increasing Britain's wealth.

Rolls-Royce Motors represents a social contract between the 22,000 shareholder proprietors and the 9,400 employees... who, by their combined efforts have enabled the Company to continue profitable expansion during a year of worldwide recession.

* The current year has opened well for our car business. Other products are somewhat subdued but further ahead prospects look bright.

* The Board is pushing ahead with a major investment programme.

* The profitable progress of the Company has continued in 1975 with turnover up by 37% and profit by 17%.

* Motor car output exceeded 3,000 units for the first time. 59% of the cars built were exported and earned over £22 million, an increase in export earnings of 50% over 1974.

* Unit production of diesel engines increased by 13%. Direct exports increased by 60% in 1975 and earned, with spares, £7 million.

* In total the Company exported goods to the value of £33 million. The increasing success of the Company in export markets can be seen from the table below:

Year	Direct export of cars and diesel engines	Percentage of group turnover
1971	£10.8m	28%
1972	£12.6m	29%
1973	£16.8m	35%
1974	£22.0m	37%
1975	£33.1m	42%

Last year showed an increase of more than 50% in direct exports over the previous year. It should be noted that the total import content of a Rolls-Royce car which may be sold overseas at prices ranging from £17,000 to £34,000 is only £1,000.

* The Board recognizes with gratitude the hard work and loyalty of all employees and the confidence shown by the shareholders.

ROLLS-ROYCE
MOTORS

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1975 will be available from 29th March 1976 and copies may be obtained by request to The Secretary, Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings Limited, Pym's Lane, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3FL.

Preliminary Announcement

The consolidated trading results (subject to final audit) of Rolls-Royce Motors Holdings Limited and its subsidiary companies for the year ended 31st December 1975 are shown below:

	1975	1974
	£000	£000
Turnover (Note 1)	79,669	58,391
Trading profit	6,267	5,434
Loan stock interest	479	480
Profit before taxation	5,788	4,954
Taxation - United Kingdom (Note 2)	2,107	2,007
Foreign	578	378
Profit after taxation	3,103	2,569
Extraordinary items	-	323
Profit after extraordinary items	3,103	2,246
Minority interest	26	10
Dividends	3,077	2,236
Interim paid - 1.5p per share (1974 1.5p)	630	540
Final (recommended) - 2p per share (1974 2p)	841	720
Retained profit	1,606	976
Earnings per share (Note 3)		
basic	7.54p	6.81p
fully diluted	6.89p	-

NOTES

1. Direct exports
Direct exports from the United Kingdom amounted to £33,083,000. (1974 £22,014,000).

2. Taxation
It has been the Company's contention that the accumulated tax losses of Rolls-Royce Limited at 18th June 1971 are available to Rolls-Royce Motors Limited under the provisions of Section 262 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970. Following the rejection of the Company's claim by the Special Commissioners a case was heard in the High Court in February 1976 and judgment

given rejecting the claim. In the light of this judgment leading counsel has advised the Company not to pursue its appeal any further. Provision for taxation was made in the Company's accounts in 1971 on the basis that the claim would not succeed and in consequence no underprovision for taxation arises by reason of the claim being rejected in the High Court.

3. Earnings per share
The earnings per share reflect the increased share capital following the Rights issue in May 1975 calculated in accordance with the Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No. 3.

Subject to approval by the Company at the Annual General Meeting a final dividend of two pence per share will be paid on 7th May 1976 to the holders of the existing ordinary shares recorded in the register at the close of business on 22nd March 1976.

مكتبة الامم



Sunderland and South Shields Water Company

SATISFACTORY RESULTS IN YEAR OF CONSIDERABLE CHANGE

The following matters were referred to in the Report and Accounts presented at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 22nd March 1976, and in the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Walter B. Allan:-

In my statement last year I referred to the dry period which started in March 1975. My expectation that Derwent Reservoir would not fill during last winter was borne out. This had made it necessary to increase the pumping of underground supplies during 1975.

A continuation of the abnormally dry weather has meant that the overall water position is now worse than it was at the same time last year. The situation is being watched very closely. All the Company's underground sources are at present being used and the River Wear Scheme, which is under construction, should be making additional resources available before the end of 1977.

The financial results can be regarded as satisfactory. Water rates and charges were substantially increased with effect from 1st January 1975, with a view to restoring the balance on Net Revenue Account and the Contingency Fund. These balances had been run down to unacceptable levels during the years when water rates and charges were kept at artificially low levels in order to assist governmental efforts to combat inflation.

At the end of 1975 the balance on Net Revenue Account was £229,946 and on the Contingency Fund £589,559.

Strenuous efforts are being made by several agencies to attract industries into the North East and an adequate supply of water is of the utmost importance. The additional water resources resulting from the Northumbrian Water Authority's Kielder Scheme, in conjunction with the Company's River Wear Scheme, have been designed to play an important part in the economic resurgence of the North East.

Economy in the use of water and the avoidance of waste will not only lessen the risks of shortages of supply but will reduce the expenditure of the Company. This in turn will help to lessen increases in water rates and charges during the next few years.

An issue of £3,000,000 of 9% Redeemable Preference Stock, 1980 was made in June 1975, and a further large issue will have to be made in the next few months. The proceeds will mainly be required to finance the construction of the River Wear Scheme.

Sunderland and South Shields Water Company
29 John Street, Sunderland SR1 1JT.



THE AFRIKANDER LEASE LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

Report for the half-year ended 31st December 1975

The following are the unaudited results of the company and its two wholly-owned subsidiaries for the half-year ended 31st December 1975, together with comparative figures for the half-year ended 31st December 1974 and the year ended 30th June 1975:

	Half-year ended 31.12.75	Half-year ended 31.12.74	Year ended 30.6.75
Administration expenses	21,000	13,000	41,000
Interest paid	2,000	1,000	1,000
	23,000	14,000	42,000
Deduct:			
Rents and sundry income	3,000	4,000	8,000
Group loss	£20,000	£10,000	£34,000

NOTES

- Loans**
At 31st December 1975 the amounts advanced by Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited and AFC Investments Limited for the financing of acquisitions of certain mineral rights and also of the company's normal operations totalled R601,000 (31st December 1974: R404,000). These loans bear interest at one per cent above the commercial banks' minimum overdraft rate ruling from time to time.
- Administration Expenses and Interest Paid**
In accordance with the company's accounting policy all preliminary expenditure on project investigations is capitalised. The figures for the half-year ended 31st December 1974 have therefore been adjusted to take into account the capitalisation of certain administration expenses and interest paid as reflected in the accounts for the year ended 30th June 1975.
- Dividends**
No dividends were declared or paid during the six months under review.
- Taxation**
No taxation has been provided for the six months under review as the company incurred a loss.

OPERATIONS

In the Directors' Report for the year ended 30th June 1975 it was stated that the undertaking of a detailed feasibility study requiring intensive metallurgical test work was under consideration and that a general investigation into new recovery techniques which could be applicable to the company's uranium deposit was underway. An arrangement has recently been made with an overseas company of international repute to test samples of ore with a view to establishing an operating process using leaching techniques which have been proved feasible on a laboratory scale. The Rietkoppie incline shaft has accordingly been partially dewatered to enable typical ore samples to be obtained. The metallurgical test work will show whether or not a material improvement in the percentage recovery will be possible.

As indicated in the company's 1975 Annual Report, members will be advised of the proposals for raising additional capital to finance the metallurgical test work, the feasibility study, the company's present level of activities and repayment of the loan monies advanced.

For and on behalf of the Board
D. A. Eberhard, Directors
Ian MacKenzie

Administrative and Technical Advisers and Secretaries
Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited,
44 Main Street, Johannesburg, 2001
(P.O. Box 61587, Marshalltown, 2107)

Transfer Secretaries
Consolidated Share Registrars Limited,
62 Marshall Street, Johannesburg, 2001
(P.O. Box 61051, Marshalltown, 2107)

Charter Consolidated Limited,
P.O. Box 102,
Charter House, Park Street,
Ashford, Kent, TN24 8EQ

Head Office
44 Main Street,
Johannesburg 2001

Johannesburg 22nd March, 1976

London Office
40 Holborn Viaduct,
EC1P 1AJ

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Gillett Bros may well end with higher profits

By John Whitmore

Gillett Brothers, the discount house, expects to be able "at least" to maintain profits in the current year by the virtue of increasing its turnover in all types of paper, and further expanding its outlets both at home and abroad.

In his annual statement to shareholders, Mr David Whitby, the Gillett chairman, writes that the improvement in profits should be possible despite the fact that narrower margins on bills may continue to persist.

On the subject of interest rates, he suggests that the immediate outlook may point to lower domestic rates. The group does not expect that this will necessarily be long lasting, how-

ever, and indicates that it may become necessary to raise interest rates again in the early summer if there is any sign of a further weakening of sterling, or if overseas rates rise.

As a result of the present uncertainty, the group is restricting its exposure in the Government bond market and, apart from occasional and very temporary investment in the market, expects to confine its bond policy to active jobbing.

In the year to January, 1976, the group's disclosed profits showed a fall from £12,000 to £5,000 but this probably overstates the underlying rate of fall in profits, as part of last year's undisclosed profits went towards re-establishing a general reserve of £500,000.

Hanson's 70 pc of Hygrade

Hanson Trust's principal United States subsidiary, Hanson Industries, Inc., has purchased 215,640 shares of Hygrade Food Products Corporation under the tender offer for all Hygrade's common stock. Hanson Industries now owns a total of 683,267 shares in Hygrade—about 70 per cent of the issued shares.

A further 79,000 Hygrade shares (about 8 per cent) have been tendered and will be purchased in accordance with the tender offer which is due to expire on Thursday, March 25. Last month Hanson Trust announced that Hanson Industries had agreed to purchase from Hygrade's chairman, Mr Newton Glekel, and certain major investors, about 162,000 shares of Hygrade stock, each.

Another investor had agreed in principle to sell Hanson about 5,000 shares at the same price. Hanson Industries undertook to make a cash tender offer for the remainder at \$30 a share.

Hygrade is mainly engaged in meat processing and packing and selling meat and related products through 13 major plants in the United States. Hanson's main United States interests are in feedstuffs and specialty products.

On future dividends, the chairman said that he was confident that "at least" similar amounts as were paid last year were safeguarded for the current year.

The sales of the Stoke-based earthenware group were £3.4m against £2.6m in the same period the year before. Pre-tax profits rose from £140,000 to £215,000. In the year to June last the group made £513,000 and given the traditional second-half improvement in business, the directors forecast a satisfactory outcome for this year.

The interim dividend goes up to 3.85p gross from 3.37p last time. Last year's total was 7.58p.

The board says that progress has been maintained in extremely difficult trading by controlling costs and increasing sales.

Earnings a share rose from 4.78p to 7.88p basic and from 4.46p to 6.91p fully diluted. This situation is due to the conversion of some loan stock into ordinary shares. The interim dividend is payable on July 1.

Home Counties halves profits

Home Counties Newspapers, which publishes weekly newspapers in Greater London and the Home Counties, saw profits more than halved in 1975.

The pre-tax profits were £180,000 compared with £389,000.

The downturn came even though turnover rose from £4.18m to £4.63m. But the directors say that there were signs of some improvement in trading in the second part of the year. This "has continued in the early months of 1976".

The big profits decline means a lower dividend. The final of 3.46p a share gives shareholders a total of 4.62p against 6.7p last time. Earnings a share came out at 3.29p against 8.61p.

Lookers confident

A "considerable improvement" in activity from October to the end of January was reported by Mr R. E. Tongue, chairman of Lookers, the Manchester car distributor and engineer at the annual meeting. Profits, he said, were running at a similar rate to last year on an increased turnover.

This fitted in with the requirements of the Price Commission which had criticized the company's profit levels for exceeding the limits laid down. The accounts showed that Lookers had put aside £375,000 of trading profits to cover surpluses earned in excess of the level permitted by the Price Code.

Briefly

McNEILL GROUP
McNeill Group has bought Ballinacree Concrete, a partly-owned subsidiary of London and Northern Group, for about £105,000 cash. Ballinacree is in the construction industry in Northern Ireland and in the Republic.

CASTLEFIELD (KLANG) RUBBER
Turnover (net proceeds of proceeds) for half-year to December 31, 1975, £296,000. Pre-tax profit, £195,000 (£169,000).

BACON CO OF IRELAND
Turnover for 1975, £9,041m (£7,761m). Pre-tax profit, £224,000 (£21,000). As known, total dividend, 27 per cent (22 per cent).

OLIVER RIX
Mr A. K. L. Stephenson has succeeded Mr J. Wakeham as chairman who was incorrectly designated as such on Saturday.

CLAYTON DEWANDRE
Treasury has told company that dividend already announced exceeds the maximum allowed. The recommended final now goes down from 4.125p to 4.01p or 5.37p gross.

YORK TRUST
Acceptance received for more than 90 per cent of capital of Greenwood and Bailey. Company will apply provisions of section 209 of the 1948 Companies Act.

Geo. M. Whitley in losses and worst not over

Gloomy news comes from George M. Whitley, the makers of gold leaf and stamping foil. Last year's figures were worse than expected, and 1976 could be an even tougher year. The group also withholds a dividend, against 7p gross in 1974.

On sales down from £3.7m to £3m, the group sold from a pre-tax profit of £586,000 into a loss of £101,000. After £174,000 of tax recoverable against a charge of £301,000, earnings a share came out at 2.4p, compared with 9.8p.

Mr A. L. Marr, chairman and managing director, explains that bad going and inflation grew worse in the second half year. A return to profits, he adds, awaits the group's resumption of its Livingston, Scotland, this year. The new manufacturing unit there is nearly finished.

After six months, when a £13,000 pre-tax loss was suffered, the board blamed a sharp reduction in the volume of business on world recession.

GEC-Int Computers

General Electric of Britain has confirmed that it is interested in selling its 18.2 per cent interest in International Computers.

International Computers' other big shareholders are Plessey, which owns 20 per cent of its equity, and the British Government, which has 10 per cent.

All well at Staff Potteries

A 31 per cent increase in sales meant a 54 per cent increase in pre-tax profits at Staffordshire Potteries (Holdings) in the six months to December 31.

The sales of the Stoke-based earthenware group were £3.4m against £2.6m in the same period the year before.

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Reed Int to pay £13m for Dutch paper firm

Some months after preliminary talks began last October, Reed International had made a £13.3m unconditional offer for the private Dutch paper-fabricating firm De Boer & Bos En Zonen.

Shareholders representing all the preference capital and more than 80 per cent of the ordinary shares have accepted. De Boer's 1974 pre-tax profits were about £2.13m. The offer will be up to 38.44m florins of unsecured 11 per cent Reed bonds and a cash payment.

An alternative deferred option offer will entitle ordinary shareholders to require Reed to buy their shares in accordance with the formula during 1977 to 1980, with either a cash payment or cash plus bonus.

ICB pays £4m
The profits of London-based International Commercial Bank rose from £13.1m to £13.7m in 1975. The results of the leasing subsidiary are included for the first time. Net profits grew from £1.33m to £1.78m. Total assets increased from £387.7m to £422.7m.

ICB is owned 22 per cent each by Hongkong & Shanghai Banking, Irving Trust New York, and First National Bank of Chicago.

Norvic fades away
On sales down from £9.5m to £9.1m, the pre-tax profits of the Norvic Securities group fell by 9 per cent to £82,000 last year.

This indicates a fall in second-half profits from £120,000 to £27,000. The board had hoped for much better trading.

After adding £75,000 of extraordinary dividends, against a charge of £153,000, year with an attributable profit of £116,000, against £109,000.

Earnings a share were 0.6p, against 0.5p, but the dividend rises from 3.20p gross to 3.39p gross.

Business appointments
Changes at the top for Steeley

Mr N. M. Peach retires as chairman of Steeley and Co. but remains on the board and has been made president. Mr H. Smith becomes chairman on April 1.

Mr Victor Nordheimer, a vice-president of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, is the new president and chief executive of International Energy Bank on the return of Mr Edward E. Monahan to the Republic National Bank of Dallas.

Mr Jeremy Lancaster has been appointed chairman of Wolsley-Hughes in place of Mr N. G. Lancaster. Mr Lancaster remains a director.

Mr D. R. Dent has joined the board of Aluminium Corporation. Following ICI's acquisition of the international operations of Singer Business Machines, Mr J. D. Comish has become director of small business systems.

Mr Robert Rumsby has been appointed managing director of Restobel Insulation.

Mr Kenneth Sinclair, British Sugar Corporation's director in charge of international affairs, has been elected chairman of the International Sugar Research Foundation.

Mr G. R. N. Deakin is to become chairman of Harris & Dixon (Underwriting Agencies). Mr E. J. P. Cusp becomes a director.

Stock markets

Lifeless start to new account

The uncertainty created by both the battle for the premier ship at home and the Rhodesian situation kept substantial investors away at the start of the new account.

At 5.63, bargains struck were at one of their lowest levels so far this year and prices were allowed to drift through lack of support, especially among the industrial leaders. Such features as there were derived inspiration from favourable comment or profit statements.

The FT index grew progressively weaker and by the close had lost a full three points for a final figure of 391.3, its

lowest point for exactly two months. This confounds a section of market opinion which felt that "cheap" buyers would appear at the lower levels to outweigh other external considerations.

The latest money supply figures unsettled the gilt-edged market at the opening. However, the signs of a more rapid increase were not sufficiently positive to depress sentiment for long and prices recovered in the afternoon.

Initial losses in "shorts" were commonly of 1 point. Turnover was modest, but there was enough interest later in the session to restrict falls to 1/16 point on the day. Several stocks were unchanged.

"Longs" were able to put on 1 point in places. Here, too, activity was at low levels.

Losses were most pronounced among the leading industrials where the worst were Glaxo 360p, Unilever 440p, ICI 388p and Beecham 350p, down by 5p, 4p, 4p and 3p respectively. The new shares of Fisons were again weak, giving up 5p to 16p.

Ahead of results tomorrow, Tube Investments were lower by 2p to 50p in engineers, where Hawthorn Leslie lost 3p to 39p on news of a request for Government aid. Over in Norvic, Rolfe-Royce were just easier, 684p after results which were said by some to be just off best expectations.

Lucas resisted the trend and put on a couple of points to 225p in front of Thursday's figures while Dutton-Forsyth

251p and Dunlop 85p both did well after a favourable mention. The feature of an easier electrical sector was the confirmation by GEC, down 3p to 151p, of a suggestion first mooted in this newspaper that it would be willing to sell at the right price its 18.2 per cent stake in ICI Holdings, which shed 2p to 122p. Other majors to go weaker were EMI 252p and Thora "A" 252p, both by a couple of points.

After its shares had slumped 5p to 14p at one stage the spotlight fell on Wearwell, whose chairman later denied adverse rumours and said the company was trading profitably. Its added there had been no large share disposals by directors.

The price firmed a point to close at 15p.

In buildings, AP Cement weakened 2p to 184p in front of results while Wimpey came 1/2p to 151p, a point to suggest that the eyes of some now look a good buy. Marley followed the general trend, giving up 2p to 101p and the shares of Francis Farke dropped 2p to 51p.

In the latter case, there was no board member available for comment. Reacting to adverse comment Marks & Spencer weakened 3p to 91p, while in foods, Marks & Garton stayed firm at 121p and was a penny better at one stage. Here the attraction is the tremendous potential of deriving sugar from molasses and with a factory already being built, Manbre is proving to be a front-runner.

Among the big paper shares, the weakest was Reed which shed 4p to 268p. Others easier included Bowyer 193p and Beavercroft "A" 27p.

Issues to be helped by favourable comment included Fentons 2p to 55p and Avon Rubber 2p to 75p, while in insurance one of the few shares to advance was broker C E Heath which continued its recent strength and went ahead 4p to 304p. European Ferries, now with control of Felixstowe Dock, shed 1p to 62p.

In oils, both BP 573p and Shell 400p went up, while gold shares lost up to 25p but this was a better market. De Beers gave up 2p to 205p.

After Friday's results, which brought an advance, Sime

Darby reacted 5p to 97p, Rockware put on 3p to 88p ahead of results, as did Staffordshire Potteries, 2p to 137p. But the brightest spot was provided by Sala Tilney, up 15p to 85p after a 35 per cent profit rise.

De-La Rue were down 7p to 217p and Letraset 6p to 67p in extrights form, as were Gill & Duffus at 145p.

Banks and insurances held steady for most of the day, though Barclays did manage to put on 3p to 278p. Elsewhere in the financial sector, Cater Ryder were 5p better at 260p, but Royal Insurance were

Not long ago the shares in Estates House Investment Trust reached 255p on hopes of a speedy realization of jumps holdings and then unitization. Now they are 230p with some uncertainty over the Sala Tilney stake in the trust, and the difficulties the trust is having in selling the Algonia Railway holding at a good price. The snag is thought to be an underwriting between the shareholders in Algonia only to sell shares to each other. If so, the hoped for bid situation here might not arise.

heavily down, by 16p to 318p. Another to end the day well down was Refuge "A", by 10p to 250p.

Weyburn Engineering directed the trend completely and firmed another 25p to 660p. Hall-Thermostat, up 3p to 74p, gained ground.

In extremely quiet after-hour trading, the predominant feature was a number of minor falls. Most of the "blue chips" managed to hold on to their 3.30 pm levels while in the fixed-interest market gilt firmed one-eighth, especially at the longer end of the list. Equity turnover on March 19 was £69.21m (16.21m bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were Shell, ICI, De Beers, D. La Rue, Fisons, Glaxo, Gran, Macropian, Barclay, BP, Marks & Spencer, Distillers Consolidated Gold Fields, Rand, ordinary, Beecham, Gill & Duffus, new, Lucas, Letraset, Beavercroft "A", GEC and Wearwell.

Latest dividends

Company (and net values)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Camellia Inv	1.65	1.5	—	1.65	1.5
Home Counties (25p) Fin	2.25	3	—	2.25	2.25
Low & Bonar (50p) Fin	1.11	5.5	—	5.5	5.5
Norvic Sec (10p) Fin	1.4	0.39	13/5	1.79	1.79
Rolfe-Royce Mkr (25p)	3.5	3.5	—	3.5	3.5
Sala Tilney (25p) Fin	2.25	3.52	9/6	4.32	4.04
Starke Potteries (25p) Int	2.5	2.19	—	4.93	4.93
Solicitors Law	2.70	2.70	30/4	3.46	3.46
Geo Mac Whitley (25p)	NIL	2.94	—	NIL	4.62

Dividends in this table are shown net of stock exchange commission. Dividends are shown on a gross basis, except where indicated otherwise. Dividends are shown on a per share basis.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Bayer AG in late rally after 1975 setback

The parent company of Bayer AG, one of the three leading German chemical concerns, reports lower profits for 1975, though the decline levelled out in the final quarter. Pre-tax profits dropped 29.3 per cent to DM13.360m. Reuters reports from Leverkusen.

Domestic turnover dropped from DM9,441m to DM7,955m, and that for the fourth quarter from DM2,074m to DM1,063m. Worldwide turnover fell from DM18,474m to DM17,456m, with the fourth quarter up slightly from DM4,395m to DM4,453m.

Overseas

This final three months brought a "clear brightening of business", the company said, and it has persisted into the early months of 1976.

No final world profits are available, but the result will be lower than last year's DM1,360m before tax despite the fourth-quarter upturn.

Price levels have steadied, and better use of capacity and cost-cutting are playing their part. Last November, the board said a dividend cut would be unavoidable, but a decision on the payment will wait until the end of this month.

Hudson B. Min sells Western Decalta holding

Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting stands to make a profit in the region of \$36m through the sale to Great Lakes Power of its holding in Western Decalta Petroleum for C\$36.3m (1972) equivalent to C\$8.8 a share.

This will give Great Lakes a stake of 35.5 per cent in Decalta, rising to 43.8 per cent on conversion of debenture stock, although no offer is to be made to the other shareholders. Hudson picked up most of its holding from Anglo-American Corporation of Canada for an effective C\$50m in 1974. It planned to merge Decalta with Franco Oil and Gas, but subsequent legislation placed major disadvantages in the way.

French acquisition

Norton Simon Inc is to buy Orlane, the French cosmetics company, from Morton-Norwich Chemical. An announcement from Mr David I. Mahoney, chairman and chief executive of NSI, in New York says that Norton Simon has reached agreement in principle to purchase control of the Orlane cosmetics businesses from Morton-Norwich Chemical.

The sum has not been disclosed. However, trade circles estimated yesterday that Norton Simon probably paid in the region of \$15m (about £3m for Orlane).

Paris-based Orlane is an international manufacturer and marketer of skin treatment and skin-care products, as well as other cosmetics and fragrances. Norton Simon is one of the world's leading marketers of consumer products. Its lines include Hunt-Wesson Foods, Max Factor Cosmetics, Canada Dry, Jammie Walker Scotchies.

Snia Viscosa swings from profit to loss

Rome, March 22.—Last year, Snia Viscosa suffered a net loss of 4,350m lire (about £2.5m), thus making a new profit of 4,350m lire in the year before. The group reported a pre-tax loss of 29,400m lire, compared with a pre-tax loss of 31,580m lire in 1974 when depreciation was heavy. Parent-company sales reached 378,000m lire (up 15 per cent) and group sales, 57,800m lire (a rise of 1.3 per cent).

Snia Viscosa, 42 per cent owned by Montedison, said that the losses had been higher in the maximum depreciation write-offs had been taken, as in years past, and if foreign assets had not been written up, as permitted under new tax laws. The sales were entirely due to a rapid expansion in engineering—AP Dow Jones.

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	9 1/2%
First London Secs	9 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	9 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2%
Midland Bank	9 1/2%
Nat Westminster	9 1/2%
Roseminster ACC's	9 1/2%
Shenley Trust	11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2%

* 7-day deposits on sums of £25,000 and over. 5% to £250,000, 5 1/2% over £250,000.

M. J. R. NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED

26-28 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01-638 8651

62-63 Threadneedle Street, London		
1975/76	1976/77	Company
High	Low	
46	25	Armitage & Rhod
106	94	Deborah Services
150	115	Henry Sykes
36	18	Twinlock Ord
67	45	Twinlock 12% UL
63	48	

Commodities

COPPER: In a nervous market both wire bars and cathodes were steady. American wire bars, March-April, 77.00; May-June, 77.50; July-September, 78.00; October-December, 78.50. London wire bars, March-April, 77.00; May-June, 77.50; July-September, 78.00; October-December, 78.50. Cathodes, March-April, 77.00; May-June, 77.50; July-September, 78.00; October-December, 78.50.

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Foreign Exchange

In a sudden reversal of recent widespread speculation, forces which have been threatening the European joint float, the Belgian franc and Danish crown recovered sharply on the foreign exchanges yesterday.

By the close of European trading, the Belgian franc had rallied to a level which established it at 38.55 against the dollar on convertible account by the close from 35.25 on Friday, prompted market suggestions that major central banks concerned their intervention operations to help lift pressure on the Belgian unit.

Swedish money rose 5 points to 51.20 in the afternoon, its worst level ever from 33.8 on Friday. Gold rose 25 cents an ounce, to \$100.

The widely anticipated currency revaluation of the float last week and failed to materialize and prompted a steady dismantling of speculative positions, they said.

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Discount market

Day-to-day credit was in short supply in the discount market yesterday and the authorities relieved the situation with help on a very large scale. They bought Treasury bills and corporation bills directly from the houses in need.

One or two advances were rather short, but "calling" was not particularly heavy. However, fresh funds did not flow readily and rates stayed in the 7 1/2 per cent to 8 per cent area nearly all day.

In the last half-hour they jumped to 8 1/2 per cent. In the interbank market, after the discount house had ruled off for the day, they went still higher, to about 10 1/2 per cent.

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Money Market

Optimistic forecasts are based not only on the bleak factors, such as the explosive situation in southern Africa, but on indications that recovery is indeed under way in the United States and on increased consumer interest in Europe.

Herr Günther Manns, Metallgesellschaft director in charge of the copper department, who was recently with a West German delegation to Zambia, said in Lusaka that copper prices were expected to rise sharply by the end of the year.

The overall world economic situation was improving gradually and there were already indications that consumers were requiring more copper.

However, there is no lessening of anxiety about prices among members of the Council of Copper Exporting Countries (CIPEC) and Mr Axon Soko, Zambia's Mines Minister, has said that his country has no intention of scrapping the 15 per cent cutback in production which was agreed on by CIPEC in Lima, Peru, last November.

Mr Soko, a dedicated critic of the London Metal Exchange, said that there was no question of going back to full production because recent rises in copper prices on the LME were speculative. He was commenting on a Chilean statement that when CIPEC meets in Paris in July it will be asked to revise the cutback restrictions because of current higher world prices.

Tomorrow's see the opening of a fund-raising drive in Geneva for world copper producers and consumers, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at the request of France, Zaire and CIPEC.

There has been two fore-runners to the meeting. First, UNCTAD has issued a note for delegates—prepared before copper prices began moving up.

The fund-raising drive has begun trading some Wall Street shares in Europe. Dealing began in the last month or so in about 25 of better-known New York Stock Exchange shares.

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Copper producers remain anxious despite upward trend in prices

Although currency difficulties have intervened to add weight to factors sending up copper prices opinion seems to be hardening that the present upward trend is no flash in the pan but that further significant price advances can be expected in the short term.

Optimistic forecasts are based not only on the bleak factors, such as the explosive situation in southern Africa, but on indications that recovery is indeed under way in the United States and on increased consumer interest in Europe.

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Some hopes for the cocoa pact

Although the United States has definitely decided not to sign the International Cocoa Agreement negotiated in Geneva last October, and the Ivory Coast is still refusing to sign, the pact has emerged from the sixth session of the council of the International Cocoa Organization which ended in London last Thursday.

It is necessary that 80 per cent of the exporting members should adhere and apparently the Dominican Republic and Mexico have shown interest in signing. If they do so, and other members who have expressed willingness to put their names to the pact, the 80 per cent condition will be met.

However, should the Ivory Coast, the Dominican Republic and Mexico all refrain, Mr C. K. Hackman, the ICO executive director, sees a way round. This would entail invoking a clause in the new agreement which would allow nations which do sign to put the pact into force.

Even if the pact is signed by the full 80 per cent of producers, some dealers question whether it can have a decisive influence on prices. The prospect that it can must be weakened in proportion to the number of nations remaining outside.

The United States refusal is in the belief that the agreement has been too loosely put together. The Ivory Coast does not like the price levels which have been built in, believing that the threshold of 85.5 cents a lb which export quotas would operate is too low.

Wallace Jackson Commodities editor

Wall Street

New York, March 22.—Prices turned higher in fairly active early trading of the Stock Exchange this morning. The Dow Jones industrial average had ended 3.86 points to 983.71.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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Commodities editor

Wall Street

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Stock Exchange Prices

Leaders drift

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A leading National Company of Housing Development requires a Solicitor for their West London Office to manage their Legal Department for the Company's housing work. The successful applicant will be responsible for all legal aspects of the Company's housing work, including planning, building, and conveyancing. The successful applicant will be responsible for all legal aspects of the Company's housing work, including planning, building, and conveyancing.

Applications are invited from Solicitors with experience in this field of legal work within the age group 30 to 45 years. This position offers an ideal opportunity for the professional person who is seeking to involve himself in practical management at a senior level. The Company has a pension scheme and other benefits.

Please apply in writing to The Managing Director, Box No. 0032 P, The Times.

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WOLVERHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM, PROGRESSIVE and friendly Solicitors. Applications are invited from Solicitors with experience in this field of legal work within the age group 30 to 45 years. This position offers an ideal opportunity for the professional person who is seeking to involve himself in practical management at a senior level. The Company has a pension scheme and other benefits.

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Applications are invited from energetic and adaptable candidates, preferably with some admitted experience, for this newly created post. This is an opportunity to gain valuable experience over a wide field, with future career possibilities.

There will be particular involvement with the administration of the Community Land Act and planning inquiries and appeals but the successful applicant will be expected to undertake all types of work that may fall to the Legal Section from time to time, and a responsible and mature approach will be essential. There are attractive working conditions and amenities and these are expected to be further improved when the new offices now building are completed and occupied.

Hertsmere (population 93,000) extends between Bury and Putney and includes large tracts of the Metropolitan Green Belt. There are excellent residential, educational and recreational facilities and very good communications by road and rail, both with London and other parts.

Applications forms are obtainable from the Personnel Office, Council Offices, Elstree Way, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 1DU. (Tel: 01-853 1844 extension 244).

Closing date: 6th April 1976.

Hertsmere

District Council

EAST GRINSTEAD

SOLICITORS

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Solicitor

Allied Breweries (UK) Limited is concerned with the Beer and Hotels business of Allied Breweries Limited. The Marketing Companies of Allied Breweries (UK) Limited are Ansell, Ind Coops, Ind Coops (Scotland) and Joshua Tetley & Son which between them operate more than 8,000 licensed premises. The Production Company is responsible for the breweries and the depots. There are more than 40 hotels in the Hotels Division. We have a vacancy for a Solicitor in the Estates Department of the head office of the Company at Burton-on-Trent.

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SOLICITOR

Amoco Europe Incorporated is responsible for co-ordinating the petroleum exploration and marketing activities of the European subsidiaries of Standard Oil Company (Indiana), one of the world's larger oil companies. A vacancy exists in Amoco Europe's Law Department which, in conjunction with other staff lawyers and outside attorneys, provides legal assistance to the various European affiliated companies.

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